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TOP JOBS SECTION 3

Blow for farmers and fishermen

Brussels hits back against British veto

By Philip Webster, Peter Riddell and Michael Dynes

EUROPE launched a fierce counter-attack yesterday against Britain's blocking tactics in the beef war.

After Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, accused John Major of "hostage-taking" in his policy of non-cooperation, Brussels announced three measures that angered Euro-sceptics:

□ Compensation to farmers for falling beef prices, which hands more cash to German and French farmers than to British farmers whose herds have been most affected.

□ Second, Emma Bonino, the Fisheries Commissioner, said that Britain's fishing fleet, along with other EU fleets, must be reduced by 40 per cent, over and above cuts that have already proved too difficult to achieve.

□ Third, the Commission demanded that Britain must, by today, give it details of the baby milk brands at the centre of the latest domestic health scare. Ministers have so far refused to divulge the brands at home.

The announcements, clearly designed to show the Government that the European Union

has no intention of bowing to the Prime Minister's headline campaign, came as Kenneth Clarke, the Cabinet's leading pro-European, voiced hopes that the confrontation would be over before next month's EU summit in Florence. The Chancellor of the Exchequer also rejected Tory Euro-sceptics' demands for a specific timetable for lifting the ban on British beef.

In an interview with *The Times*, the Chancellor said: "We would prefer to sort it out before the Florence summit. If it is going on then, it will have to be sorted out at Florence."

"If we get absolutely no response from the other European countries it is likely to go on indefinitely. I do not think this is likely. The process of blocking all this legislation is going to concentrate minds."

Mr Santer's unprecedented attack, which bore all the hallmarks of his predecessor Jacques Delors, came as Ms Bonino announced the plan to reduce the Union's fleets to preserve fishing stocks that are in imminent danger of being "fished to extinction".

The Commission's proposed compensation package for

falling beef prices means British farmers will receive £13 million out of a fund of about £52 million. However, the figure, which is based on total numbers of cattle, will give French producers £23.2 million and the Germans £15.4 million.

The package of measures provoked the fury of Conservative Euro-sceptics last night. John Redwood, last year's party leadership contender, described the fishing move as "a devastating hammer blow to an already devastated industry".

He added: "British fishermen are being asked to scrap their boats and to sacrifice their jobs, to stand on the quayside and watch Spanish vessels catch the fish."

Mr Redwood urged the Prime Minister to step up the conflict with the Union by reimposing a 200-mile fishing limit round Britain unless fishermen are given a better deal.

The "war cabinet" of Mr Major, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Secretary, were away from London. However, Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, who is leading the Cabinet's technical response, said of Mr Santer's reaction: "We are approaching this in a calm and rational fashion. We hope the rest of Europe will do the same."

The force of Mr Santer's outburst, delivered at a private meeting of his commissioners and deliberately disclosed, surprised the Government.

Mr Santer's spokesman said after the meeting: "He deplores the taking hostage of dossiers in the Council which has nothing to do with BSE. Such actions have no place in the Community governed by the rule of law."

Although he said there were no plans for legal action at present, with Britain challenging the worldwide beef-ban in the European Court, there is a clear, longer-term threat of a legal tit-for-tat.

The Commission president also claimed that Britain's attitude would "not fail to be counter-productive".

Mr Santer emphasised that it was up to Britain to put its house in order: "The main responsibility rests with the UK authorities, which must make proposals, apply them, and monitor them effectively in order to eradicate BSE. These measures are the only way in which we can re-establish consumer confidence and stabilise the markets," he said.

Clarke interview, page 2
Letters, page 21



The Prince and Princess of Wales embrace as they leave Eton yesterday after they had made a rare public appearance together at the school's speech day. The couple joined Prince William for lunch, but left before the traditional procession of boats

Teacher tells of screams as Dunblane gunman fired

By Stephen Farrell and Gillian Bowditch

TWO teachers yesterday told the first day of the inquiry into the Dunblane massacre of the moments when Thomas Hamilton opened fire on the class of five- and six-year-olds and their teacher Gwen Mayor.

Mary Blake, herself wounded when Hamilton fired 105 bullets around the primary school gymnasium, told the inquiry headed by Lord Cullen: "I can remember the children shouting. It was so loud that the screams seemed to be inside my head. We felt so hopeless because we could do nothing for the children."

Both she and Eileen Harrild, a physical education teacher who suffered chest and arm wounds, praised the terrified children for staying "amazingly calm" as they cowered in a corner of the gymnasium moaning from their wounds. One child kept repeating "What a bad man," said Mrs Harrild. "We just put our fingers to our lips and the children were very quiet. They didn't want him to come back again."

Mrs Harrild said she and her colleague had tried to lift gym mats onto the children to protect them, but they were too badly injured. She said Hamilton had opened fire after walking into the gymnasium wearing a woolly hat and carrying a gun extended in his arm.

"I was about to ask what he wanted, I looked and saw the gun, and he started shooting at me."

Hamilton was carrying four handguns and enough ammunition to kill everyone in the school - 743 rounds, many of them soft nose bullets designed to cause maximum damage.

Relatives of the dead and 14 injured listened in silence as

they heard how Hamilton opened fire on the class on March 13 in which 16 children and a teacher died.

The inquiry is being held at the Albert Hall, Stirling, five miles from Dunblane.

The most chilling moment of the day was when a picture of Thomas Hamilton's dead body lying on the gymnasium floor was flashed up on a dozen television screens around the hall. Families of the dead and injured, who had arrived flanked by social workers and police, grimaced



Harrild: injured too badly to help class

at the sight of his corpse surrounded by the guns he used. The evidence was too much for some parents, who were helped out of the hall by counsellors. However most stayed throughout, sitting stone-faced in a gallery removed from the press and public seats.

Two hundred seats had been made available for members of the public behind them but few were full. The people of Stirling are acutely aware of the suffering of their neighbours.

Inquiry, pages 8 and 9

Beef fails to turn the tide for Major

By Peter Riddell

THE Tories and John Major have failed to reap any immediate electoral benefit from the beef confrontation with the European Union, a MORI poll for *The Times* reveals.

Support for the Tories has fallen over the past month. It stands at 27 per cent, down one point on the end of April, while public satisfaction with the performance of the Government and Mr Major have declined. Labour is unchanged at 54 per cent, with the Liberal Democrats one point up at 15 per cent.

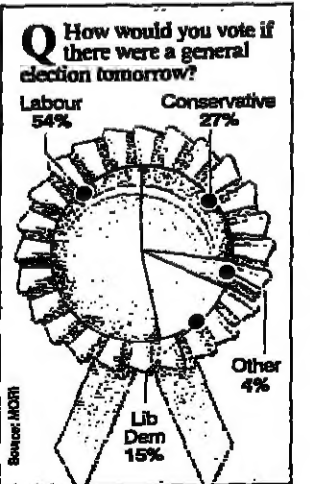
The poll, undertaken last weekend, is contrary to the expectations of most MPs and party strategists. It will dash the hopes of Tory leaders that Mr Major's tough line of non-cooperation with Brussels would boost the party's standing as he is portrayed as a strong and patriotic leader.

Labour advisers were also apprehensive that the party's ratings might suffer from the beef confrontation and from recent reports about Shadow Cabinet disagreements. The poll may reinforce resignings among Tory MPs about the wisdom of the confrontation

policy, with rumblings of dissent already evident among pro-European Tories and sceptics.

Even Tory supporters have not been impressed, the poll shows. Their satisfaction with the way Mr Major is doing his job as Prime Minister has declined from 68 to 63 per cent since the end of April. His overall approval rating - Continued on page 2, col 6

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Quest for peace

The Duchess of York will begin a quest to find "inner peace" in her new life after her divorce is made absolute today. She said in a television interview that she intended to turn over a "fresh, clean page" in her life.

Extra beds

The Health Secretary has ordered 55 more extra intensive care beds for critically ill children to try to stem complaints that hospitals are turning youngsters away. Health authorities must find the money.

Peres clings to tiny lead in Israeli poll

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

EARLY exit polls from the Israeli elections last night showed Shimon Peres, the incumbent Prime Minister, leading by a narrow margin.

Polls conducted by two separate Israeli television stations gave Mr Peres a lead of between 1-5 per cent over Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the rival Likud party. In the race for the 120-seat Knesset, Labour was predicted to win more than 35 seats and Likud more than 30. The pro-Labour Meretz party was in third place with ten seats.

In what was predicted to be an 80 per cent turnout - higher than in 1992 - the big surprise was the apparent gains made by three main religious parties who are tipped to win 20 seats, an increase of at least four.

The Israeli Arabs, who form 12-15 per cent of the electorate of 3.9 million, could hold the balance of power. Many extreme right-wing Jews have vowed non-cooperation with a government dependent on Arab support.

While some Arabs claimed

to have been motivated to support Mr Peres by recent blatantly racist slogans used by ultra-orthodox Jews backing Likud, others said that the recent assault on Lebanon was still too potent to allow them to vote for him.

Under the new electoral system, the candidate elected with over 50 per cent of the total poll has 45 days to select a government able to command confidence in the Knesset.

Death threats against Mr Peres from right-wing Jewish extremists opposed to his conciliatory policies towards the Arabs overshadowed voting yesterday.

Mr Peres was forced to scrap an afternoon tour of polling booths after callers said that he would be assassinated "within the next few hours".

Security officials said a loaded rifle had been found close to Labour Party election headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Earlier Mr Peres voted in a Tel Aviv suburb surrounded by a phalanx of nervous bodyguards.

George Washington draft found in Suffolk

By Alan Hamilton and John Vincent

THE Library of Congress in Washington emerged last night as a likely bidder for an important early American document found under a sofa in a Suffolk country house.

Book experts at Phillips, the London auctioneers, are satisfied that the single sheet of paper, with handwriting on both sides, is the work of George Washington and is a missing fragment of his original



Washington, America's first President, and part of his undelivered inaugural speech

draft of the speech he intended to give, but never did, at his inauguration as the first President of the United

States in 1789. The document distils Washington's vision that the newly independent country, then an insignificant

nation with less economic influence than the West Indies, might one day grow to be a great world power. "The

New World is now becoming a stage for wonderful exhibitions," he wrote.

Washington's notes were found during a routine probate valuation of books at a house in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, after the recent death of a descendant of Sir Thomas Lyell, a prominent English geologist who visited America in the 1840s and is thought to have been given pages of Washington's script as a souvenir. Simon Roberts, the

Continued on page 2, col 4

XERYUS ROUGE

POUR HOMME

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GIVENCHY

Duchess goes solo with quest for inner peace

By Emma Wilkins

THE Duchess of York will begin a quest to find "inner peace" in her new life as a single working mother after her divorce is made absolute today.

She intends to turn over a "fresh, clean page" in her life with the formal ending of her ten-year marriage.

The Duchess said in a television interview that she had suffered from low self-confidence in the past, but was thinking positively about her future as a charity fundraiser. "It has been an incredible learning process these past years; and I don't regret, now I look forward."

The decree absolute is due to be issued today from the Family Division of the High Court in London. The marriage that began with pomp and splendour in Westminster Abbey on July 23, 1986, will end like millions of others, with a simple piece of paper.

Sky News publicised the interview under the banner "HRH the Duchess of York speaks exclusively". It was



The Duchess said that she was growing up

probably the last use of the formal title Her Royal Highness, which she has agreed to surrender after the divorce.

She told the programme Live at Five that she remained friends with the Duke of York and they were devoted to their children, the Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie. "I think — well, I know — I'm a very good mother to my girls and that's the most important thing."

Andrew and I together are very good parents and I will continue to live in this country bringing them up in the best possible way and working as hard as I can.

"But I think it's an opportunity now perhaps to know a little bit more about myself... to find the inner peace. Well, that's my quest. I have had very little confidence over the last years. I'm really pleased that hopefully my children will not have to learn the hard way on that. I look forward to every day now and I look forward to the future."

The Duchess intends to throw herself into her charity activities. Yesterday she and one of her favourite charities, the Motor Neurone Disease Association, strongly denied a report that she was to be dropped as its president.

"I will help in my very small way as much as possible, if I can rally support or I can raise funds as my energy — I have a great energy for life. I love life," the Duchess said.

"If I can use that and harness that in a way to get people together and to get things together so we can really raise some money or raise awareness — because, as you know, the media is quite interested in me — then maybe we can spread the word through that medium."

"That's why I'm often quite complimentary about journalists, because I need them — I actually use them to spread the word of children that need help."

"So, you see, it's a double-edged sword. You can't complain too much about them because they actually do spread the word."

The Duchess added: "I'm more aware about what it is to live every day and to become an alive person, so to speak... to become aware of what it is to be the conductor of your own orchestra... to be the conductor of your own mind rather than the mind running you. I'm growing up, you could say."

Tigers in peril from lack of basic care

By Nick Nuttall
Environment
Correspondent

HUNDREDS of the world's remaining wild tigers are dying needlessly each year for want of local veterinary skills and tranquillisers, environmentalists said yesterday.

They have joined with British zoos to raise £100,000 to help to save one of the most threatened species. There are just 5,000 tigers in the wild. Peter Lawton, chief executive of the British-based Global Tiger Patrol, said yesterday that the threat remained mainly from poachers supplying the Oriental medicines market, and from habitat loss. Significant numbers are also lost after becoming injured or snared in traps. Experts estimate that up to four wild tigers are killed each day.

Gail McGuffie of the charity, which works to save the Indian subspecies of tiger, cited cases where they could have been saved if dart guns, drugs and staff had been on hand. In one case a tiger was found with porcupine needles in its face and paws.

Global Tiger Patrol is just one of the groups that will benefit from Tiger Week, launched by the Federation of Zoos, the umbrella body for the 60 zoos and wildlife collections in Britain.

Leading article, page 21



Hari, a Sumatran tiger cub at London zoo, with its companion, Liffey, a Japanese Akita puppy. British zoos are helping to raise £100,000 to protect wild tigers

Road rage murder detective replaced

By Adrian Lee

THE policeman leading the search for the killer of a man during a road-rage attack ten days ago has been replaced. Kent Police said Detective Superintendent John Grace had gone on holiday and the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Cameron, 21, would be headed by Nick Biddiss, who holds the same rank.

Mr Biddiss, the most senior investigator with the force, has a reputation for conducting meticulous inquiries. Mr Grace will not be involved in the inquiry when he returns from holiday. A Kent Police spokeswoman said the switch was not significant and they had a number of "promising leads". Mr Biddiss was said to have been unavailable to lead the inquiry from the start.

Video footage from roadside cameras, motorway petrol stations, the Dartford and Blackwall tunnels and Dover docks has been of no use. A camera on the roundabout at Swanley, Kent, where Mr Cameron was stabbed in front of his girlfriend, Danielle Cable, was pointing away.

Speaking publicly about Mr Cameron's death for the first time yesterday, his parents, Ken and Toni, appealed for more help. Mr Cameron said on London Tonight: "Someone must know him. He's got family, friends, colleagues at work. There is something about him that is so evil... So please, if anyone knows who he is, tell someone."

Earl Spencer sells five of his titles

By Joanna Bale

THE Princess of Wales's brother, Earl Spencer, is selling five of his titles to raise up to £78,000 for the upkeep of his Northamptonshire stately home, Althorp.

The Manorial Lordship of Wimbledon, which dates from the Domesday Book, is likely to attract most interest and fetch an estimated £35,000 to £50,000 when it is auctioned in London on June 26, during the first week of the Wimbledon fortnight. The others, the Manors of Upper Boddington and Stridon in Northamptonshire, Newland Squillers in

Hertfordshire and Theddingworth, Leicestershire, are expected to fetch between £5,000 and £7,000 each.

Stephen Windos, an historical consultant for Manorial Auctioneers, a trading arm of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, said yesterday: "I am sure there will be a great deal of interest in all of them, especially the Wimbledon title, which may exceed its estimated price. As it is being sold during the Wimbledon fortnight, we might get a player buying it. The Earl needs to sell it to raise money for renovations at Althorp. These are the first titles he has sold."

Gascoigne in squad as plane row continues

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent

PAUL GASCOIGNE, who is at the centre of inquiries by the police and Football Association into allegations that television sets on a jumbo jet were damaged, was yesterday confirmed in the 22-man England squad for next month's European championship.

Although MPs yesterday demanded that any players found guilty of causing the £5,000 damage should be dropped from the party, the FA faxed UEFA, the European governing body, with 22 players chosen on Tuesday by Terry Venables, the England coach. Yesterday was the deadline for the 16 participating countries to finalise their squads for Euro 96.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "If we find our players were involved we will take that very seriously." But he said that the FA was "not even thinking about" dropping anyone from the party.

The players were celebrating Gascoigne's 29th birthday when the alleged incidents took place on the flight home from Hong Kong. He also allegedly argued with an air hostess. Mel Stein, Gas-



Gascoigne named as one of England's 22

coigne's agent, said his client would be co-operating with the FA inquiry. "He feels that because of all the attention he has received, he will be able to put his point of view forward."

Cathay Pacific, the airline with which the England party flew, was also interviewing its cabin staff yesterday. It confirmed that it had asked the FA for compensation.

John Carlisle, Conservative MP for Luton North and the vice-chairman of the party's Sports Committee, said: "This has happened at a time when we are worried about what is going to happen over the next few weeks when the competition gets under way. It sets a terrible example. The culprits should be identified, publicly exposed and thrown out of the squad at once. And if that includes Paul Gascoigne, then so be it."

Bryant's Eye, page 46
Rob Hughes, page 48

Cameras capture Newcastle hooligans

By Paul Wilkinson

MUGSHOTS of nearly 100 suspected football hooligans caught by closed-circuit television cameras were released by police yesterday as part of a pre-emptive crackdown on trouble at next month's Euro 96 championships.

The pictures were taken in Newcastle city centre on May 5 when the city's side lost to Tottenham, ending chances of winning the Premiership title. Publication of the pictures under the headline "Shop-A-Yob" led to thousands of calls to a police CrimeStoppers line yesterday.

Last night Northumbria Police believed they had identified as many as half the young men. Twelve had already given themselves up at police stations after seeing their photographs in the local newspaper. The pictures were taken from security videotapes of city-centre trouble involving up to 1,000 youths in the Bigg Market and at the Central Station.

Last week police arrested 19 in raids on 25 homes after targeting the "generals" of the Gremlins, a gang of hooligans who follow Newcastle United. Fifty people have since been charged.

Bishop challenges image of the weak man in the Street

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

MEN are to be invited to an audience with the Bishop of Hull, the Right Rev James Jones, to discuss their portrayal as the weaker sex in popular soap operas such as Coronation Street.

Bishop Jones believes many men see themselves as strong, independent characters able to cope with anything, as outlined by Rudyard Kipling in his poem *If*. But he fears the reality is that many men are more like Coronation Street's Jack Duckworth and Reg Holdsworth — ruled by their women.

Bishop Jones is to address an annual men's meeting at Driffield, East Yorkshire,

where he is spending a week on evangelism and mission. He will challenge men on whether they think the TV drama reflects a fair picture. The Bishop said: "Men would like to think they run the show. But the Coronation Street soap opera shows it is the women."

"I am hoping it will open up a discussion on how they see themselves and especially on how they see themselves in relation to God. Often, men think religion is something for men who cannot cope. Men like to think they are strong, independent and that they don't have any needs."

The characters in Corona-

tion Street are not positive images. I don't think Coronation Street is damaging the male psyche in Britain, but any study of maleness has to make reference to the soap operas. Coronation Street shows men as weaker. In some sections of society, it may be right."

He declined to elaborate on which sections of society this might be. The Rev Richard Carlill, vicar of St Peter's, Driffield, said: "He thinks men should be men so he wants to inspire them."

The all-male night at the Bell Hotel in Driffield will be preceded by a meeting with Mothers' Union members.

1

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This summer's competition on the cross-Channel service

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Minister orders health cuts to fund extra child beds

By Dominic Kennedy
Social Affairs
Correspondent

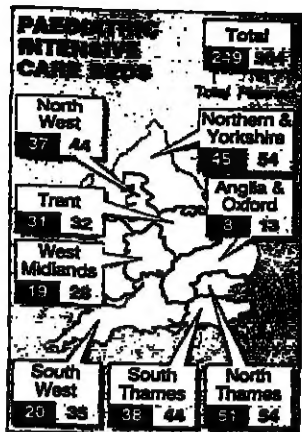
STEPHEN DORRELL, ordered extra intensive care beds for critically ill children yesterday to try to stem complaints that hospitals are repeatedly turning youngsters away.

The Health Secretary said 55 more beds would be provided in England during the next three years, but left it to health authorities to find the money. Each bed costs £250,000 a year to maintain — the equivalent of 20 heart valve operations — and last night health chiefs said that important services would be squeezed.

Mr Dorrell was responding to the national outcry over the death of ten-year-old Nicholas Geldard last December. The boy collapsed at Stockport from a brain haemorrhage and was declared dead after his ambulance crossed the Pennines through a blizzard in search of a bed in Leeds.

Under Mr Dorrell's plan, a national bed bureau will be created so doctors will know which hospitals are full, saving hours of fruitless calls. Parents will not be able to ring the hotline.

Many of the new beds are likely to be concentrated in five big hospitals which already have large paediatric intensive care units: Great Ormond Street and Guy's & St Thomas's in London, Alder Hey in Liverpool, Birmingham children's hospital and Yorkhill in Glasgow. They will be expected to create squads of doctors and nurses to rush to smaller institutions in the regions.



bringing patients back for care.

The first 30 extra beds are to be ready to meet peak demand this winter. Mr Dorrell has found £2 million to send 225 nurses on 24-week courses. He decreed that paediatric intensive care, which has existed since only the early 1980s, should become one of the NHS's base commitments.

He declined to specify where savings should be made to pay for the new beds. "There are choices to be made at the margins. We are saying that adequate provision of paediatric intensive care is not at the margin."

The number of beds has grown rapidly from 127 in England in 1987 to 249 today. The 30 new beds this year will be followed by seven more next year and 18 the following year. Advances in medicine have increased demand, as doctors learn how to save severely ill children from kidney failure, cardiac problems

and cancer. The country has enough beds for nine months of the year but comes under severe pressure during the winter.

Cath Geldard, who followed her son's ambulance from Stockport to Leeds, said: "This is moving in the right direction but it's just a shame that it is existing money that they are using. Until the beds are working with trained staff I don't think we will believe it." She is continuing her legal fight for compensation.

Louise Adams, the trust council manager of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said: "Other important services will have to be squeezed unless further funds are available. The NHS is already having to cope with significant cost pressures including rising demand, more hospital admissions, continuing care and waiting list targets. And at the same time, it is being asked to make efficiency savings of 3 per cent."



Staff nurse Noreen Gilling in Guy's paediatric unit, which is being used as a model for the rest of the country

EVERY paediatric intensive care patient needs a nurse at the bedside around the clock. A trained doctor is needed for every four beds.

Salaries for specially trained staff form the bulk of the £250,000 required to maintain one of the beds for a year. Each bed needs a

The cost of special care

£24,000 monitor to record heart rate, oxygen in the bloodstream and blood pressure. Most also need a ventilator costing up to £24,000. The bed will have eight syringe pumps costing a total of

£8,000. The beds cost £1,000 each.

Ian Murdoch, director of paediatric intensive care for Guy's and St Thomas's Trust in south London, said there were four patients in their 16

beds yesterday, all aged under seven months. Usually, half the patients were less than 14 months old and their average stay was four days.

The Guy's unit is being used as a model for the rest of the country. Its size allows it to be more flexible and efficient than smaller hospitals.

Tenneh's tearful farewell to England

By A Staff Reporter

TENNEH COLE, the five-year-old orphan brought to Britain for a life-saving operation, bid a tearful farewell to England yesterday as she started the return journey to Sierra Leone.

Tenneh was flown to Britain three weeks ago for surgery to remove a bullet from her skull. She lost the sight in her right eye and was left partly deaf as a result of being shot in the head.

The girl, who lost her parents during the civil war in Sierra Leone, looked overwhelmed as she appeared at a news conference at Heathrow. Colonel Mark Cook, of the Hope and Homeless charity, which raised money for the treatment at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, said: "She is overawed by the trauma of the past few days and the past 18 months. She has suffered terribly. It is very important for her to get back to her own environment."

Doctors are confident Tenneh will receive all the medical aftercare she needs in Sierra Leone.

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Eurotunnel takes a gamble with £49 return fare

By Jonathan Prynne, Transport Correspondent

EUROTUNNEL declared a "fight to the death" with ferry companies yesterday as it announced a fare of £49 for a day-return car trip to France on Le Shuttle trains.

The fare comes into effect on June 1 as part of a restructuring of the debt-laden company's prices aimed at snatching vital peak season business from its ferry company rivals. The £49 day return fare for a car and up to five passengers applies to "anti-social" crossings departing before 6am, and compares with a current day return of £75. After 6am the lowest day return is £59.

In addition a new standard "economy" return of £129 — previously £266 — will apply for departures between 6am and 10pm from June 1 until August 31.

For crossings between 10pm and 6am the economy fare is £109 and for Apex tickets bought up to 14 days in advance a return ticket is £99. There is also a "mini-break" five-day return for £59 at night and £69 during the day, which was £147 previously.

This summer's competition on the cross-Channel route is

likely to be the most intensive yet in an increasingly desperate struggle for survival.

A spokeswoman for P&O European Ferries, Eurotunnel's main rival, dismissed the company's summer offensive as "nothing to get excited about, nothing new".

She said P&O had already pledged to match any brochure prices offered by competitors and is already offering day-trip prices of £15 per car plus £1 per passenger until the end of June. The day-trip price from July 1 until the end of the year goes up to £19 per car plus £4 per passenger.

Stena, the second biggest ferry operator on the Dover to Calais route has said it will match rivals' promotional as well as brochure prices.

□ Eurotunnel is offering some of the cheapest duty-free shopping in Europe to try to entice customers away from cross-channel ferries. The company, which cut prices on all its duty-free products by up to one third last September, pledged yesterday to maintain current pricing levels until the end of duty-free shopping in Europe, scheduled for 1999.



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THE TIMES THURSDAY
**Defeat
attack
Everes**

Tomorrow's
father can
be a man
or a mouse

ANCE could be used to create a new breed of man, says a leading expert of embryology, who says that the use of sperm from a man who is a 'mouse' could be used to create a new breed of man. The use of sperm from a man who is a 'mouse' could be used to create a new breed of man. The use of sperm from a man who is a 'mouse' could be used to create a new breed of man.

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Defeated Blessed attacks 'selfish' Everest climbers

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE actor Brian Blessed yesterday criticised climbers who had turned Everest into a "mountain of death" through their selfish pursuit of the summit.

The Shakespearean actor, who has just returned from his third attempt on the mountain, aimed much of his anger at a Japanese team who, he said, had left three Indians to die without even offering water as they overtook them amid ruthless rivalry. Blessed, 59, was speaking in London after abandoning his climb at 25,000ft during a season in which the mountain has claimed the lives of 11 climbers so far. He said Everest "stank of death", with climbers suffering from mountain fever and "running around everywhere like headless chickens desperate to reach the summit first".

The Japanese climbers Hiroshi Hanada and Eisuke Shigekawa beat an expedition led by Molinder Singh of the Indian Tibetan Border Police to become the first to reach the 8,848 metre (29,028ft) summit this season from the north side. At first they said they had been too tired to help the Indians and that above 8,000 metres was "not a place where people could afford morality". But later the Japanese released a statement claiming that one of their Sherpas had helped an Indian.

Blessed said: "The Japanese had been told not to help. When they got down, the bastards had a party. I went into their tent and took their flag down and pissed on it."



Blessed on his third trip to the "mountain of death"

He said that he had desperately tried to dissuade an Austrian mountaineer from continuing a climb that claimed his life.

"This man had no idea how dangerous Everest was," he said. "I said to him, 'You stink of death, you are obsessed with death.' I said that in two days he would be a block of ice and in two days he was a block of ice. I told his family he had died bravely. I lied to them."

Blessed took up climbing at the age of 27 and attempted Everest in 1990, dressed in 1920s clothing for a BBC documentary, and in 1993. He said yesterday: "I found that 60 per cent of the people on the mountain hadn't a clue what they were doing. Most of them turned up with one tent and without oxygen."

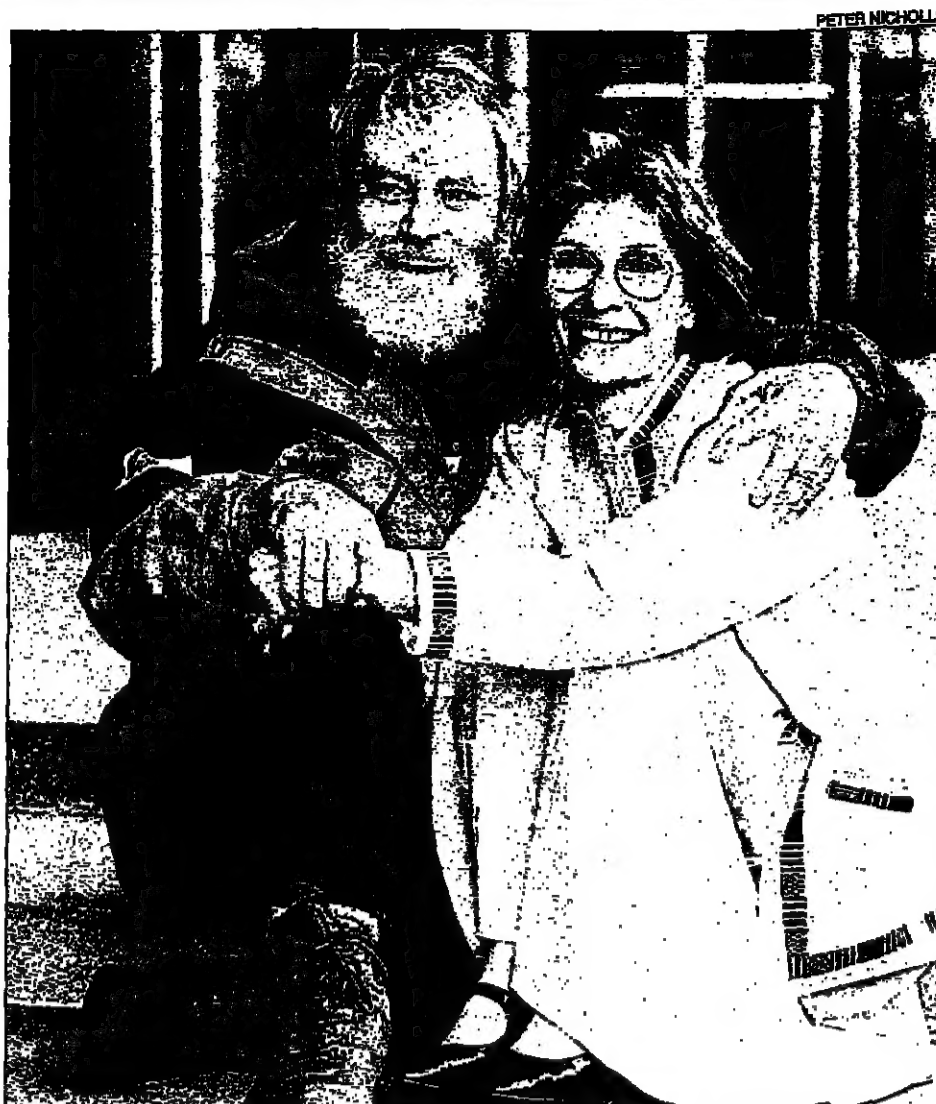
"I was horrified that such a high mountain experienced the lowest common denominator in human behaviour, they were like lemmings. I found people taking food from my tent and almost every day I found myself slapping people

across the face and shouting at them." Blessed, who made his name in the television series *Z Cars*, was accompanied by an ITN film crew for a Channel 4 *Encounters* programme to be shown later this year. Two of the film crew, Matt Dickinson and Alan Hinkes, did reach the summit.

Blessed lost more than three stone in weight and suffered mild frostbite in his throat and fingers during the eight-week expedition on the north ridge approach in Tibet.

"I turned back with a civilised whimper," the actor said. "I wasn't disappointed as I thought we were doing the right thing. You remember your wife and children and realise that they are more important to you than any bloody mountain."

He forecast an ignominious end to the romance of climbing the world's highest peak, predicting that in 15 years tourists would pay £50,000 to be taken up on a funicular in pressurised suits.



Brian Blessed reunited with his wife Hildegard yesterday after his aborted ascent

Cash for mother denied job share

A WOMAN has won £35,000 because her employers refused to let her return to work part-time after the birth of her second child.

Sarah Rolis, 35, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, resigned from IPC Magazines when the company would not let her set up a job-share. Ms Rolis's claim was settled on the first day of an industrial tribunal when IPC agreed to pay £35,000 in an out-of-court settlement and develop an equal opportunities policy.

Ms Rolis said she had not taken the action for the money. "It's been the principle; I would have preferred my career," Ms Rolis took maternity leave for her first child and returned to work full-time, but after maternity leave for her second child decided she could not combine working full-time with her role as a mother of two.

Jack Low, head of communications at IPC, said: "IPC Magazines already has an equal opportunities policy as a result of discussions with the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past three years."

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



FASHION
Glamour in the underworld

FOOD
30-minute suppers with style

TELEVISION
Your seven-day guide to TV and radio

TRAVEL
France — from Brittany to Biarritz

Tomorrow's father can be a man or a mouse

By NIGEL HAWKES

MICE could be used as surrogate fathers, carrying the sperm of endangered animals or even humans, American scientists have shown.

Dr Ralph Brinster and colleagues from the University of Pennsylvania found that spermatogenesis — stem cells which produce sperm in the testes — can be preserved indefinitely by freezing. More extraordinary, they showed that cells from one species, the rat, could be introduced into the testes of mice, which then produced rat sperm.

The same technique could be used for human sperm, although this has yet to be demonstrated, say reports in *Nature* and *Nature Medicine*.

Frozen stem cells could restore the fertility of cancer patients damaged by chemotherapy. The use of mammals as surrogate sperm producers might help in cases where men have stem cells but, as a result of an accident or genetic problems, cannot produce sperm. The sperm would then be used for in-vitro fertilisation.

Miniature reserve helps save rare snail

By NICK NUTTALL

THE world's smallest nature reserve has been set up by British scientists to save the world's rarest snails.

During the past few weeks three species of tree snails have been sent to their native island of Moorea, near Tahiti. They have been extinct in the wild for more than a decade. Their new home is 20 square metres of rainforest enclosed by an electric fence surrounded by a moat filled with salt, to keep out a predatory snail.

Nearly 250 Partula snails, akin to Darwin's finches in importance as they enable scientists to see how evolution works, have been brought in from the University of Nottingham and Bristol, London, Chester, Edinburgh, Jersey and Detroit zoos, where they have been bred. Others are from Martin Mere, Lancashire, part of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Dave Clarke, head keeper of London Zoo's invertebrate conservation centre, said: "One of the species was down to just four individuals. But we have a thousand now."

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The killer had four handguns and 743 rounds. He fired 104 shots before shooting himself

Families listen as expert retraces gunman's steps

REPORTS BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THOMAS HAMILTON fired 105 bullets around the Dunblane gymnasium, including dum-dum-type rounds designed to inflict maximum injury, a ballistics expert told the inquiry.

When he walked into the school Hamilton was carrying 743 rounds and four handguns — two 9mm Browning pistols and two .357 Smith and Wesson revolvers. He used just one of the Brownings to shoot his victims. He then put a Smith and Wesson into his mouth and fired one bullet through the top of his head.

Eileen Harriell, a teacher who was injured, and relatives of the victims craned forward in the public gallery at Stirling's Albert Halls yesterday to hear Malcolm Chisholm's soft voice as he methodically went through the forensic evidence, following Hamilton's deadly progress.

Mr Chisholm said the gymnasium floor was "strewn" with spent cartridges when he arrived at 11.30am, two hours after the massacre. There was silence in the hall as a picture appeared on television monitors showing the scene that

greeted him. Hamilton, dressed entirely in black, was sprawled on his back beside a wall.

Mr Chisholm said Hamilton had fired his first shot outside the gymnasium, apparently accidentally as he cocked the Browning in a passageway. He then burst through the gym door and fired 29 rounds around the room, emptying one magazine and loading a fresh one.

He walked up the left-hand side of the gym, stopping to fire six shots across the width of the room, then another eight further along. When he reached the top of the gym he fired 30 rounds from two more magazines back in the direction he had come.

He then fired once through a window by the fire exit, pushed open the door and fired four shots into a cloakroom and nine shots into a neighbouring classroom.

Hamilton, who was carrying the handguns in holsters and the ammunition in pouches slung from two shoulder straps, re-entered the gym and sprayed the rest of the shots indiscriminately around

the interior. "He then switched the pistol from his right hand into his left hand and drew the Smith and Wesson revolver with his right hand. He then placed the muzzle of this gun in his mouth, pointing upward, and pulled the trigger," Mr Chisholm said.

Professor Anthony Busuttil, 50, Regius Professor at Edinburgh University, who carried out a post-mortem examination on Hamilton, said that he had died instantly. Tests showed no traces of drugs or alcohol and there were no abnormalities in Hamilton's health.

The killer's body was found lying near the fire exit. The Smith and Wesson was still in his hand. Beside him were three loaded guns, his spectacles and woolly hat. Near the gym door was a camera bag which police feared might have been a booby trap. The building was evacuated until bomb disposal experts gave the all-clear.

Hamilton's Browning was a customised self-loading weapon with an extended barrel, popular for target shooting and with the military, Mr Chisholm said. The firing mechanism had been ground down to make it sensitive to the slightest touch on the trigger. Tests showed that the pistol could fire a full magazine of 20 shots in 5.46 seconds and it would take 50.4 seconds to load and fire 105 shots.

Hamilton had loaded a mixture of round-nosed, flat-nosed and hollowpoint 9mm bullets for the Brownings. Hollowpoint rounds, Mr Chisholm said, were designed to expand on impact and cause the maximum amount of damage, similar to dum-dum bullets which had been banned by the Geneva Convention. Asked why the hollowpoint bullet had not been banned, he said: "I can't understand it. It is in general use in America. Most of the police forces in America use it."



Gwennie Mayor, the teacher who died, and the children Thomas Hamilton opened fire on when he walked into Dunblane Primary School. A new security system will ensure that all doors are locked during school hours and visitors will be vetted by reception staff via an intercom

Overloaded phone network caused confusion for police

CONFUSION reigned for hours after the massacre as emergency workers struggled to identify the dead and wounded, the police officer in charge said.

Detectives at the school could not contact the outside world because the school telephone line was jammed by calls from parents and media. The mobile phone network was overloaded and police radios were deemed insecure.

Detective Chief Superintendent John Ogg, the officer in charge of the inquiry, admitted that Central Scotland Police had never simu-

lated a mass shooting in training sessions. Police were called at 9.41am and officers were on the scene at 9.50. He arrived at 10.05am. The first priority, he said, had been to set up a cordon and ferry the injured to hospital. The last was removed at 11am. But identifying the dead was made harder by the death of Gwennie Mayor and because the class register had not been completed.

Problems also arose from his decision not to take the names of injured children as they were loaded into ambulances, he said. That meant

police needed to talk to the hospital, but had "tremendous difficulty" because of the phone problems.

Jack Beattie, a consultant paediatrician at Stirling Royal Infirmary, said the hospital's accident and emergency department was alerted to the shootings at 9.48am. Within minutes the possibility of multiple child casualties was known.

Dr Beattie said he reached the school at 10.15am. The first task was to evaluate casualties and those who were still alive before putting patients in order of priority.

Teacher saved pupils shot at in classroom

A TEACHER saved her pupils from being shot after she saw Thomas Hamilton through the window and told them to lie on the floor.

Hamilton fired nine shots into a hut where the pupils were lying. "This was very fortunate as one of the bullets went through the back of a chair. Four exited from windows on the other side of the class," the inquiry was told.

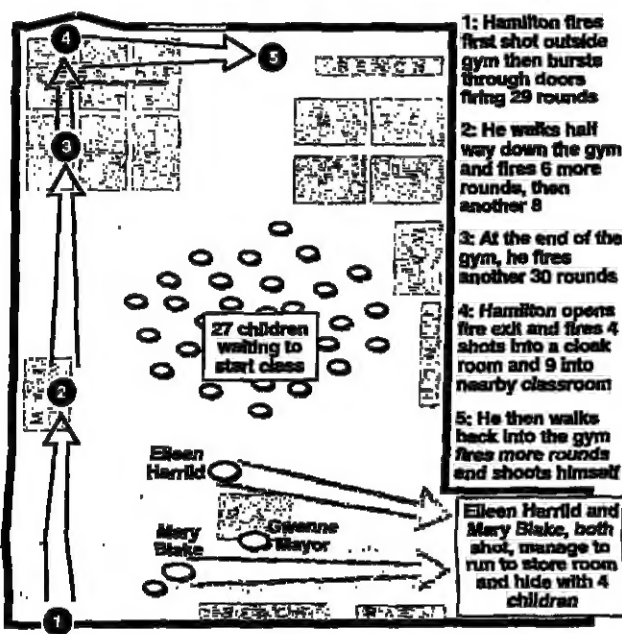
One pupil walked up the side of the gym as Hamilton was shooting. Hamilton fired at him, but missed. The child was injured by broken glass. Hamilton tried to cut the telephone line to the school

before the massacre. George Anderson, 32, a BT engineer, was called to the area the next day after a number of residents complained of a fault.

He told the court he did a number of tests before spotting a wire which had been cut at the bottom of the telephone pole outside the school. He immediately contacted the police.

Audrey McMillan said in a statement she saw Hamilton take tools from a white van parked close to the telegraph pole on the morning of the massacre, before he entered the school.

The inquiry continues.



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Martin Bell helps Bosnian translator to finish education

By PAUL WILKINSON

MARTIN BELL, the BBC's war correspondent in the former Yugoslavia, is helping a victim of the conflict to complete her education in Britain. He has joined forces with Brigadier Richard Dannatt, a former commander of British troops in the country, to sponsor one of the Army's Bosnian interpreters at a British university. They are raising funds to pay for Sanya Stanojevic, 29, to take an MA in international relations at Durham University, starting next September.

The civil war cut short Miss Stanojevic's promising career as a language tutor and court and TV interpreter. Her flat in Sarajevo was destroyed and her parents' home in the city damaged by machinegun fire. Miss Stanojevic, a graduate in English language and literature from Sarajevo University, has a Serb father and Croat mother and was brought up in the city's Muslim quarter. In



Bell impressed by Miss Stanojevic's courage

1994 she found a job as an interpreter with a British battalion of the UN, and within four weeks was seconded to the sector commander for high-level talks with leaders of the warring parties. There, her dedication and bravery in dangerous conditions impressed everyone with whom she came into contact.

Brigadier Andrew Ridgway, one of the British commanders

she worked with, said: "She worked extraordinarily long hours without complaint. She is also extremely brave. She refused to be left behind during negotiations to release detained UK liaison officers. She was never intimidated by aggressive various warring factions and always remained cool and professional."

Mr Bell said yesterday: "She is a wonderful person who did brilliant work for the British during the fighting. She has known nothing but war for the past three years. We hope the chance to study somewhere peaceful is some recompense for all the service she has done not only the UN and Nato, but her country as well."

Mr Bell, who has now swapped his Bosnia flak-jacket for an assignment in Kashmir, has contributed part of the royalties from his book *In Harm's Way*, towards Miss Stanojevic's costs. He said: "I knew Sanya for two years in Gorzki Valuf and was impressed by her many qualities,



Sanya Stanojevic in Bosnia with Brigadier Richard Dannatt, who suggested she be brought to Britain

especially her loyalty to those she worked for, her competence and her courage. It is obvious that she cares deeply for the future of her country and wishes to be part of it.

"It took Brigadier Dannatt to recognise her potential and that we should do something for her. We have to invest in

the future. One can only hope it will be good. With Sanya things are going to happen."

Brigadier Dannatt, commander of the UN's southwestern sector in Bosnia until his return last month to the 4th Armoured Brigade in Germany, said Miss Stanojevic was about £10,000 short

of the money she needed for the course. He was contacting people and groups who knew her during the war to ask for help. "Her experiences during the war have given her a fascinating perspective on the Balkans," he said. "She wishes to develop a career now that the war is apparently over and

my predecessors and I want to help her." Miss Stanojevic, who also speaks French and Italian, said: "It is marvellous because these are studies I would have undertaken before the war. It is an opportunity to do something of practical use to my country. To achieve it is a dream come true."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cat trapped for 45 days escapes a curious fate

A four-year-old cat has been found after being trapped for 45 days under floorboards at a house being renovated near his home. Bruno, who weighed over a stone when curiosity got the better of him, "was just like a sack of bones with a head", said his owner, Aubrey Pitts, 48, of Teignmouth, Devon.

The black and white cat, who suffered temporary blindness, was put on a drip feed at a veterinary centre in Torquay until yesterday. "He is now eating and quite bright," Mr Pitts, a taxi proprietor, said. "The prognosis is hopeful."

Murder trial date

A man charged with murdering Vikki Thompson, who was bludgeoned while walking her dog last August, is to stand trial in November. Mark Weston, 21, of Ascot, Oxfordshire, a near neighbour of Mrs Thompson, denied the charge when he appeared at Oxford Crown Court.

Propeller death

An aircraft passenger who walked into a propeller after an emergency landing has died in hospital. Graham Marples, 44, from London, was hurt after the plane came down in a field near Basingstoke en route from Holland. The pilot, Graham Jones, 35, of Sydenham, southeast London, faces a drugs charge.

North Sea patrol

Greenpeace activists on board the *Sirius* are scouring the North Sea for fishermen, mainly Danish, who they say are "hoovering" sand eels — tiny fish at the hub of the food chain. Greenpeace says such industrial fishing is damaging sensitive areas and threatening seabirds and predatory fish.

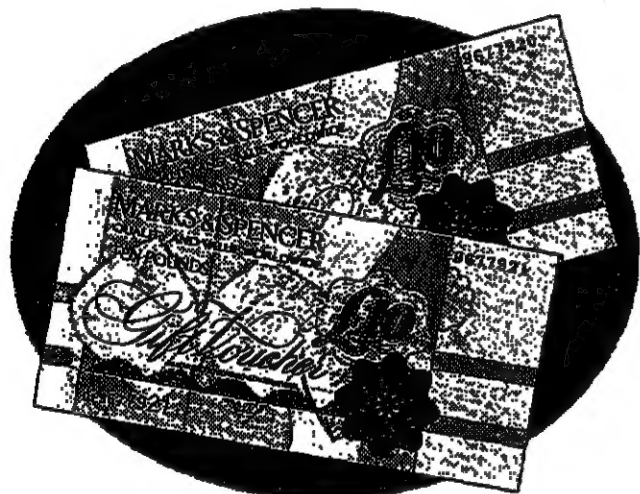
Ghost channel

The National Trust has set up a closed-circuit television system so that visitors at the Treasurer's House in York can keep watch on a tiny cellar where the ghosts of Roman soldiers are alleged to have been sighted. The cellar is too cramped to be open to the public.

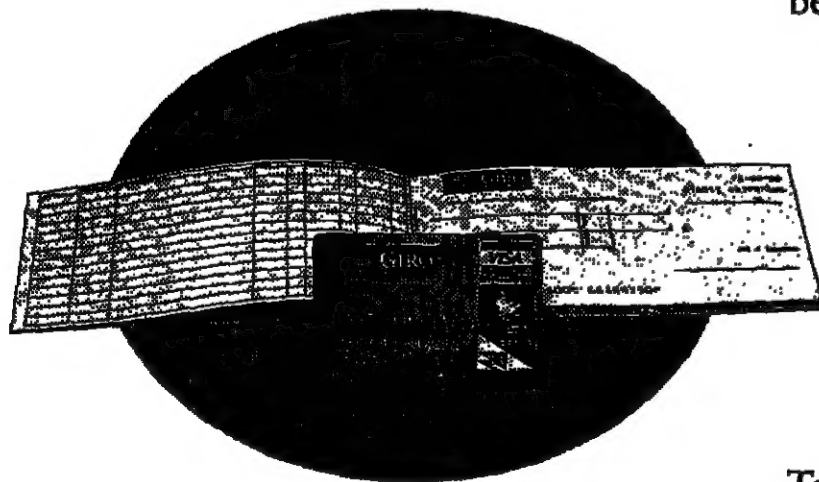
Long overdue

A book that disappeared from Scotland's Faculty of Advocates almost 200 years ago has been returned. The book, a French translation of the works of Plato published in 1700, turned up at an auction in Canada and has been returned via the National Library of Scotland.

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THURSDAY MAY 30 1996

THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 30 1996

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NEWS IN BRIEF

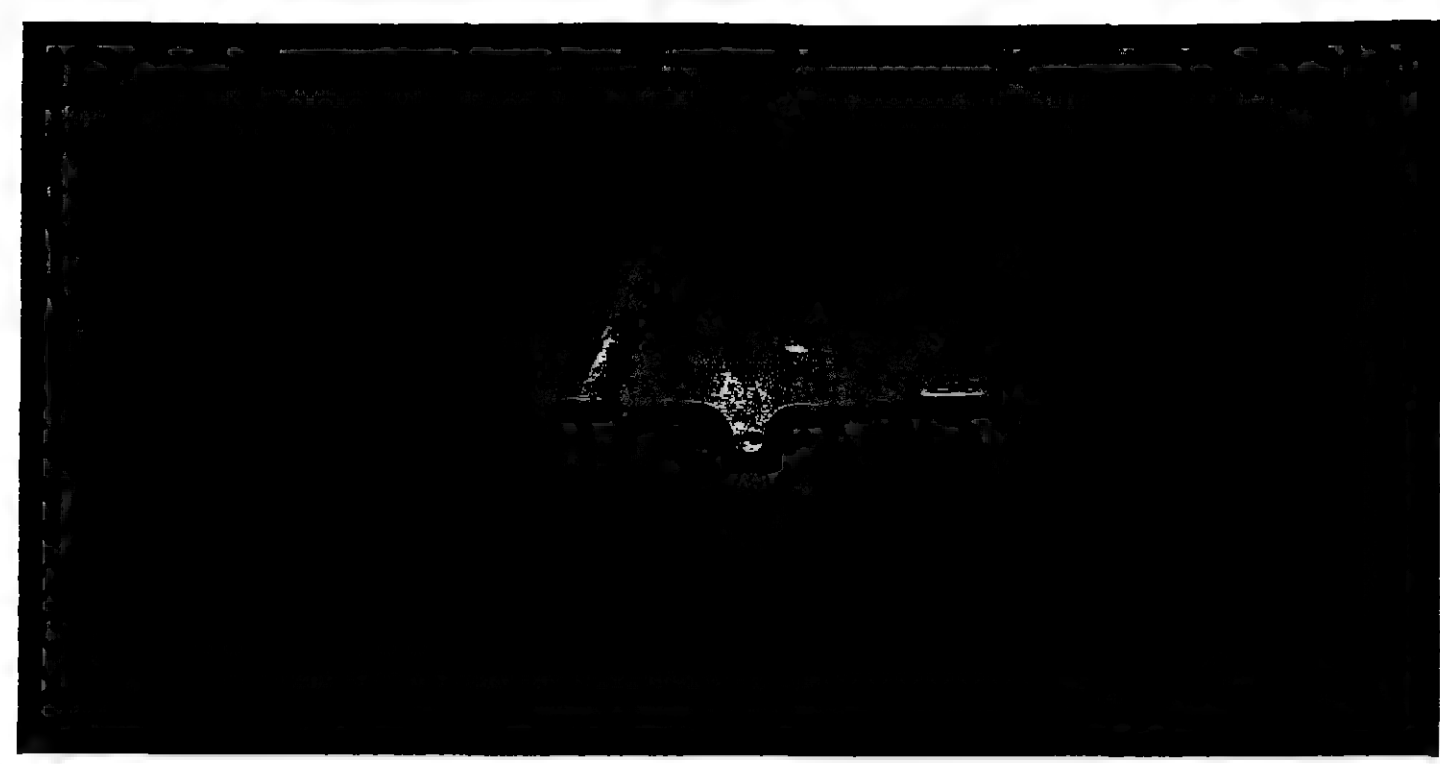
Cat trapped for 45 days escapes a curious fate

A four-year-old cat was found after being trapped 45 days under a house being renovated in home. The cat was found by a neighbor who was looking for a cat. The cat was found in a room with a hole in the wall. The cat was found in a room with a hole in the wall. The cat was found in a room with a hole in the wall.

Murder trial

A man charged with the murder of a woman was found guilty. The man was found guilty of the murder of a woman. The man was found guilty of the murder of a woman. The man was found guilty of the murder of a woman.

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Beethoven: rumoured to have had syphilis

Hairsplitting exercise will put Beethoven's hearing to the test

By TOM RHODES

THE unruly hair which has embodied the musical genius of Ludwig van Beethoven from sculpture to Hollywood may soon yield a host of unsavoury facts about the German composer nearly 170 years after his death.

Through a bizarre series of twists and turns, 582 strands of the musician's hair have made their way from his deathbed in 19th-century Vienna to a laboratory in

Tucson, Arizona, where they could provide perhaps the most intriguing revelations about Beethoven's elusive personal life and even his exceptional talent.

Its two owners hope that the end will supply answers to many of the questions which so long have eluded academics, including whether the unmarried composer was ever treated for syphilis and whether his deafness was caused by lead poisoning. A team of top American scientists has been assembled by

the musical devotees to conduct a series of experiments on the hair.

Having bid \$7,300 (£5,000) for the relic at Sotheby's, Ira Brilliant, a retired estate agent, and Alfredo Guevara, a urologist, believe the hair could ensure as enduring a personal portrait of the man as the symphonies, sonatas and oratorios provide for the maestro's work.

Some strands have already been tested and the anthropology department at the University of Arizona has already concluded that, despite

a widespread plague of head lice in 19th-century Europe, Beethoven's wild mane was free of nits.

It is generally accepted by modern scholars that, in addition to his stoic acceptance of increasing deafness, Beethoven suffered cirrhosis of the liver, chronic kidney stones and constant intestinal difficulties. According to the notes of one doctor who treated him in Vienna, the composer had a continual bout of diarrhoea while finishing his Piano Concerto in B flat. As yet there have

been no signs that he used morphine to ease the pain but appears to have relied on large quantities of wine.

The hair was cut from his head by a young student after Beethoven's death at 56 in 1827 and surfaced during the Second World War when it was given to a Danish doctor by Jews he had helped to smuggle out of Nazi Germany. Believed to be the thickest clump in existence, it will soon be transferred to another research centre at Naperville, Illinois, where scientists will search for traces of mercury and lead.

Mercury was the standard treatment for syphilis at the time and, while there is no evidence that Beethoven ever had sex with anyone, rumours of the condition have persisted since one doctor burned the composer's treatment notes.

The Illinois scientists will also be analysing the relic for lead, which could have caused the composer hearing loss.

Drug ring arrests deliver fresh blow to US Navy image

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE battered image of the US Navy suffered a fresh blow yesterday with the disclosure that 21 American sailors have been arrested in Naples for smuggling heroin and cocaine into Italy.

The first arrests were on May 16, arousing speculation they may have contributed to the pressures that drove Admiral Mike Boorda, Chief of Naval Operations, to suicide in Washington that day.

The admiral faced questions about the legitimacy of his Vietnam War decorations and was already worried about the US Navy's reputation after the Tailhook sexual harassment scandal and several unwelcome incidents at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

The sailors involved were recruited by Nigerian dealers because they could cross national borders with relative ease and were reportedly paid up to \$30,000 (£19,000) to smuggle 10lb to 12lb of drugs at a time from Istanbul.

The ring was broken after

it was infiltrated by agents from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Most of those involved were junior enlisted sailors, but one was a lieutenant-commander and two apparently had top-level security clearance. There was no evidence that the sailors, subject to random drug tests, used narcotics themselves. "The motivation here was money, not intoxication," a naval source said.

A naval commander has meanwhile admitted writing an anonymous letter published in the *Navy Times* three days before Admiral Boorda's suicide, which said he had lost his peers' respect and should resign.

John Carey, recently relieved of his command of a guided-missile destroyer for abusing the crew, apologised but said the admiral was "the last person in the navy any of us thought might kill himself".

The admiral's widow, Bettie, has decided not to release her husband's two suicide notes, but para-

phrased one in a message to all sailors on Tuesday.

She wrote: "Today, if he were writing to you, it might be something like the following. You are the heart and soul of our navy. Take care of each other. Be honorable. Do what is right. Forgive when it makes sense, punish when you must, but always work... to help people be all they really can be and should be."

The commander of the navy's Blue Angels flying team has resigned because he felt his performance was inadequate. Commander Donnie Cochran was the first black to join and then lead the daredevil team. The *Washington Post* said some white pilots had complained that he got the job because of his colour.

A statement by the Blue Angels said Commander Cochran "understood that safety is paramount, and was concerned that his difficulties were beginning to impair the viability of the demonstration".

Ship crew accused of dumping stowaways

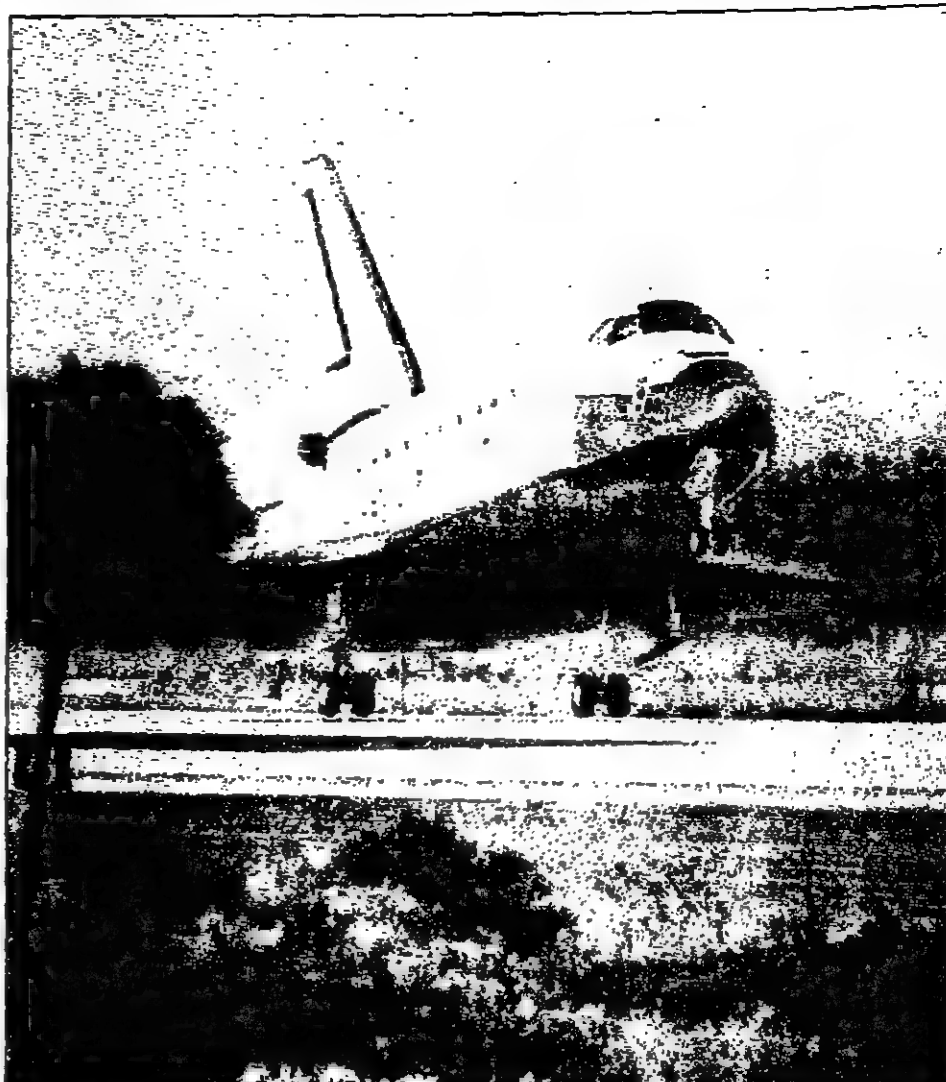
FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BUCHAREST

ROMANIA yesterday demanded the extradition from Canada of the captain and crew of a Taiwanese container ship who allegedly threw three Romanian stowaways overboard. The general prosecutor's office and Romania's Supreme Court have issued arrest warrants against seven crew members believed to have been involved.

Two Romanians were put on a makeshift raft on March 12, a day after *The Dubai* left the Spanish port of Algeciras for Canada, crew members said. They were too frightened to report the incident until a third Romanian was found and disappeared on May 18.

The crew said they were ordered to make a makeshift raft from an oil drum for the two men found in March. They last saw them adrift about 30 miles from land.

Romanian papers said the third man was thrown overboard, with no hope of survival. When a fourth man was found, the crew hid him. He was turned over to Canada's Immigration Department.



The Endeavour space shuttle lands at Cape Canaveral, Florida, yesterday after its crew of six successfully completed a complex ten-day scientific mission that included the release of an inflated giant antenna and growing pure crystals

Protest veteran arrested in China

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

IN A sign of nervousness in the run-up to the seventh anniversary of the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, police detained a dissident, Wang Donghai, who had sent a petition to parliament demanding the release of human rights activists like Wei Jingsheng, China's number one political prisoner.

Security was stepped up in Peking, despite the fact that the human rights movement in China has been virtually crushed. More People's Armed Police elements were on guard yesterday around foreign diplomatic compounds and embassies, and there was an increased presence of plain-clothes security men in the diplomatic quarter.

The authorities are nervous, said one foreign diplomat here. "These are preventative measures to guard against any possible embarrassing incidents. But it's difficult to think there can be any major protest because most dissidents are in prison, in exile, have been co-opted into the system or have given up the struggle."

Mr Wang, who was detained on Tuesday, had joined six other activists in sending a petition to the standing committee of the National People's Congress, demanding the release of Wei, who is currently serving a 14-year prison sentence, and other political detainees.

"We call for the immediate unconditional release of Wei Jingsheng along with all others detained for political and religious crimes," the petition said.

Mr Wang, 45, a store manager, was jailed for two years for his role in the pro-democracy demonstrations that were crushed on June 4, 1989, and was again held briefly last December.

He called in the petition for the Government to reverse its condemnation of the 1989 student movement as a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" and to punish all those involved in the crackdown.

Sex charge dropped against Barry Sheene

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

AN INDECENT assault allegation against Barry Sheene, the former British world motorcycle champion, and Gerhard Berger, the Austrian racing driver, has been withdrawn by a 20-year-old woman.

Melanie Hiltzinger, who works in a menswear boutique, had accused the grand prix stars of fondling her breasts in a shopping centre on the Queensland Gold Coast, a few miles from Sheene's home. She claimed the two men approached her during a lunch break.

Yesterday Queensland police said the complaint had been withdrawn, after a full investigation. The decision

followed an announcement by the woman's solicitor, Bill Potts, that his client did not wish the complaint to proceed. "Miss Hiltzinger is pleased that the matters between her and Mr Berger and Mr Sheene have been withdrawn and she now wants to be left alone," he said.

Mr Michael King, a solicitor for the two men, said: "Mr Berger and Mr Sheene are delighted this matter is now over and they intend to devote their time and attention to their respective business pursuits. They wish to thank all those persons who have offered expressions of support to them over the last few weeks."

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Yeltsin makes offer of power-sharing to Chechen rebels

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has stepped up the pressure to achieve a peace settlement in Chechnya before the June 16 presidential election with the announcement yesterday of a new power-sharing treaty for the republic.

The arrangement would give Chechnya many more powers than any part of Russia. In the full text of the document, which will be released tomorrow, Chechnya will be called a "sovereign state" within the Russian Federation.

Sergei Shakhrai, the former Nationalities Minister who is one of the authors of the document, said there would be a month of discussion inside Chechnya for the final details to be worked out.

The document caps a peace effort conducted over the past few days. The Chechen rebels, who have insisted on full independence for their republic, will find it difficult to reject the document altogether.

However, the fighting continued yesterday. Two Russian soldiers died and two were wounded after their armoured personnel carrier was blown up by a remote-controlled bomb in central Grozny. But the attack may have been the work of freelance Chechen rebels and was not enough to derail the peace process. Talks begin on Saturday about enforcing a full

ceasefire in the republic.

Another soldier was killed and seven others suffered burns when a Russian Interior Ministry helicopter was shot down near the Chechen village of Tsentaroy, RTR Russian state television said.

Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the rebel Chechen leader, returned to the village of Shali yesterday to a hero's welcome. Villagers and gunmen gathered to salute him after his trip to the Kremlin. Mr Yandarbiyev called Mr Yeltsin a "wolf cub", adding that it was a mark of respect.

Saturday's talks will first of all focus on a long-term truce before considering political issues. President Yeltsin, in an interview on Novosibirsk television, said he was pleased by Mr Yandarbiyev's visit to Moscow and his own visit to Chechnya on Tuesday. The Russian newspapers treated his four-hour trip to the region as a brilliant electoral coup.

The new peace process differs from the one that broke down last summer in that it is backed up by the personal guarantee of the leaders of the two warring sides. In the past, truces have been ignored in Chechnya in what may be some cases have been subordination. Mr Yeltsin put his authority on the line yesterday when he addressed the high

command of the Defence Ministry. He said that in observing the truce "every shot will be investigated for the reason it occurred".

The President admitted "mistakes" by the military and the politicians in the war, in which as many as 30,000 people have died.

"Lack of co-ordination in their actions and low standards of professionalism sometimes led to significant losses both among the troops and the civilian population."

General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, who has lost face because of the truce, accused generals "who had no honour" of trying to undermine him.

Much of the Russian press is on death watch for General Grachev, who is now Mr Yeltsin's longest serving minister, and predicts his resignation every day.

The head of an international mediating mission in Chechnya yesterday praised the ceasefire deal but said the future was still shaky.

Tim Guldemann, who represents the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in the region, said: "I am relatively optimistic about the next ten days. But if in the next six weeks there is no major progress in this fragile process, I would not be that optimistic."



Yandarbiyev: returned from Kremlin visit to a hero's welcome in Chechnya

Albanian campaign grows for new poll

BY JAMES PETTIFER AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALBANIAN opposition parties vowed yesterday to keep up the pressure on the Government to organise new elections as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe joined other international bodies in casting doubt over last weekend's election.

Although calm had returned to Tirana, the capital, yesterday after riot police wielding truncheons broke up an opposition rally on Tuesday, the former communist Socialist Party called for daily protests throughout the country until new elections are held. "We want to prove that we are numerous and that the current Government is not democratic," Kastriot Islami, of the Socialist Party, said.

President Berisha's ruling Democratic Party has claimed a huge victory over the Socialists, who pulled out of the election with five other parties hours before the polls closed on Sunday.

The open and blatant vote-rigging seems to have taken Western diplomatic missions by surprise, given Dr Berisha's high standing in the West as one of the few beacons of stability and progress in the Balkans. The warning signs have been flashing for some time, however, as serious human rights violations built up over the past year with attacks on independent media and the judiciary. Organised crime has been spreading and mafia gangs supporting Dr Berisha undoubtedly played a part in intimidating opposition voters at the polls.

The much-vaunted Albanian economic miracle has been seen by some independent analysts as a matter of smoke and mirrors, with large areas of the countryside enduring near medieval conditions and a very overvalued currency bringing hardship to poorer families even in Tirana.

Another problem for Dr Berisha was electoral arithmetic. There seems little doubt that support for the Democratic Party never exceeded 40 per cent of the electorate and it may have been lower in some key districts. Without manipulation, it was never going to be possible to secure a decisive majority.

Two held over death of Briton

Budapest: Almost a year after the stabbing to death of a British tourist, Hungarian police have arrested two youths in connection with his murder (Adam LeBar writes).

Christopher Stangroom, 30, from Streatham, south London, was killed last July on Margit Island, a popular beauty spot in the Danube. His belongings were stolen and his body lay unidentified in a Hungarian mortuary for days after he was murdered. The 16-year-old suspects, who had been sniffing glue, were part of a gang that stole mountain bikes, police said.

Greece cancels Turkish talks

Athens: Giving Turkey's current domestic political uncertainty as the reason, Greece withdrew from a meeting of the Greek and Turkish foreign ministers that was to take place in Berlin next week to discuss its differences with that country. A communiqué said the meeting would "not be useful in the present context and not until conditions were created for new contact... at this level". (AFP)

Left holds on in Canadian vote

Ottawa: The left-of-centre New Democratic administration, under its new leader Glen Clark, defied the pundits to hang on to power in elections in the Canadian province of British Columbia (Richard Cleroux writes). His party won 39 seats against 33 for the fast-rising Liberals. The parties previously held 50 and 14 seats respectively.

Abbé Pierre leaves France

Paris: Abbé Pierre, 83, the once-beloved French priest who dramatically fell from grace after voicing support for a revisionist interpretation of the Holocaust by his historian friend, Roger Garaudy, has quit his native country for an Italian monastery, where he may spend the rest of his life.

Thais shaken by royal scandal

BY LEYLA LINTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Thai royal house has been thrown into controversy after a London-based aide associated with the wife of the Crown Prince has been dismissed. Air Chief Marshal Anand Rodsamkhan's dismissal, and his probable loss of all military ranks, is the latest shock to the Chakri dynasty founded in 1782.

Thais view King Bhumibol with almost god-like respect, but Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn's antics have long caused deep dismay in Bangkok.

An order signed by Banham Silpa-archa, the Prime Minister, announcing the dismissal was published in yesterday's Bangkok newspapers. Copies of the order were posted on the walls of the palace of Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn in Pakkret, north of Bangkok.

The order said it would be better if the air chief marshal did not return to Thailand. By implication the same applies to the Crown Prince's wife, Mom Sujarinee. Both are to be stripped of diplomatic status.

The Crown Prince is a dashing figure who has the

rank of army general and occasionally flies air force F5 jets from Bangkok airport. The antithesis of his austere father, King Bhumibol, he has a fondness for fast women and constantly figures in the Bangkok rumour-mill.

The Crown Princess has been resident in London for some time, with her daughter. Two sons of Prince Vajiralongkorn are at Harrow.

The announcement was made 24 hours after Princess Sujarinee's daughter, Mom Chao Busanaphaj Mahidol, seven, was flown back from London by her father.

Spain brings back juries

Madrid: Spain this week reintroduced the jury system for the first time since its abrupt abolition 60 years ago (Tunka Varadarajan writes).

The system, one of many institutions which fell victim to the Spanish Civil War, was brought back only for three experimental trials, involving nine-person juries, or *jurados populares*. Observers hope that the practice will soon be adopted more widely in the country's Roman-Napoleonic legal system, traditionally dominated by magistrates.

Sri Lanka emergency declared to end strike

FROM REUTERS IN COLOMBO

THE Sri Lankan Government invoked emergency regulations yesterday to break a strike that has left the island without centrally generated electricity.

Under the regulations, which take immediate effect, the state power generation and distribution utilities are declared to be essential services. A government spokesman said the move would mean that Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) workers would

be forced to resume work or face serious penalties, including the confiscation of their property.

Power was cut shortly after noon yesterday when about 14,000 employees went on strike, officials said.

The workers are demanding a halt to moves to privatise the Lanka Electricity Company, the state power distributor, an end to private sector power plants and the payment of outstanding wage increases.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 30 1996

Seven go to Vermeer

Julia Llewellyn Smith talks to some of the 20,000 British pilgrims who went to the painter's definitive exhibition

JOHN TUSA
Barbican boss
cost of trip: £300 each
method of travel: plane

JOHN TUSA, 60, former head of the BBC World Service and now managing director of the Barbican Centre in London, visited with his wife, Ann, in March for two nights.

In January, some friends asked us if we wanted to come with them. I'm afraid we were terribly passive about it all. We booked with Time Off, and flew to Amsterdam and stayed at the Park Hotel in The Hague.

"We thought the exhibition was absolutely wonderful. The sheer concentration of so much work in one place makes you look and think so much harder than in a general gallery, where you are going from one artist to another.

"Our tickets were for 10.30am, so you were moving slowly, but this meant you stood in front of each picture for far longer than most of us do normally, so you were forced to speculate about each picture in detail. After an hour and a half we were exhausted.

"The pleasure of Vermeer is that so little is known about him and so much is speculation."

DAVID SHUTT
art department head
cost of trip: £100 each
method of travel: coach

DAVID SHUTT, 50, is head of art and design at Canterbury Christ Church Higher Education College. He visited with a party of 58 students and staff for three nights.

"We went with Isis educational travel, in a double-decker coach. About half of us were under 22, the others were mainly mature students and tutors aged between 35 and 45.

"We were travelling on Le Shuttle. Almost immediately, the coach had a blow-out and we were delayed, which was very worrying as we were booked in to the exhibition for 6pm and it was obvious we wouldn't make it. In the end we arrived at 7.30 and the last entry is at seven, but they let us in. Everyone left at eight so we had the exhibition to ourselves until nine.

"The following morning about 12 of us returned, the rest stayed in Amsterdam. The crowds were incredible, like the Underground in the rush hour. If you lose your temper in front of a Vermeer you miss the point, his pictures are all about tranquillity.

"We were staying in Amsterdam. I think that the younger ones sampled the Amsterdam nightlife. On Saturday we visited Haarlem and on Sunday we went to Arnhem. It was a terrific experience."

ERIC BROWN
former chartered accountant
cost of trip: £325 each
method of travel: plane and train

ERIC BROWN from south London, a former chartered accountant, and his wife Sheila, both 85, visited at the end of March.

"We had seen all but four of the Vermeers in our travels, so we knew we had to go to this. We flew to



Ann and John Tusa: "wonderful"

Amsterdam and took a train to The Hague. We had booked tickets for 9am, there were maybe ten or 12 people in each room and after three minutes you could stand in front of each picture for as long as you liked.

"Even if you know the paintings, the exhibition was a revelation. They are relatively small pictures, but there is plenty of space around them. There is something entirely sublime about the quietness of Vermeer's paintings."

SAM ROSENSTEIN
retired ad executive
cost of trip: £220 each
method of travel: plane

SAM ROSENSTEIN, 65, a widow from Essex, visited the exhibition in April for two days with Julie Middleton, a friend of 50 years.

"I had been in Washington DC when the exhibition was on there, but I stupidly missed it, so when I realised it was going to be a once in a lifetime thing I resolved to go.

"The travel agents got the times of the planes wrong. Luckily I keep an Air UK timetable, so I checked and we got there on time, but it could have been a disaster.

"We spent one night in Amsterdam. We went to The Hague first thing in the morning and spent about two hours at the exhibition. After an hour and a half, there was a crush and we had to be patient. Nobody was telling you to hurry up, though: I felt there was a sort of bond between all the visitors.

"It was a revelation to me. His work was so open and impressionistic but only in this very controlled construction of the painting. You realise that a line of cobbles that look as if they have been painted meticulously are really just a dash of paint. There's such a relish for weight and the feeling of flesh."

JAN KING
garden designer
cost of trip: not known
method of travel: plane

JAN KING, 46, went with her husband Anthony, 62, Professor of Politics at Essex University.

"My husband organised the trip;



Time to ponder: a visitor at the Mauritshuis Museum in The Hague; the exhibition closes on June 9

ROSIE LOCKLEY
A-level student
cost of trip: £300 each
method of travel: coach

he was extremely clever and managed to get two tickets for 9am entry from the Dutch Tourist Office. We stayed in The Hague at the Hotel Palais, which wasn't wonderful. We saw one half of the exhibition one day and the other half the next. I can't take in huge amounts of paintings all at once.

"I can't talk about the exhibition without sounding embarrassing. We both thought it was absolutely stunning. The paintings were really profoundly moving. Vermeer was light years away from his contemporaries, he was painting in an almost impressionistic kind of way.

"The crowds were extremely bothersome. I'm not small, but there were times when I simply couldn't see a thing. I had to wiggle under people's arms to get near the front.

"All the same, I was smitten. It was the best exhibition I have ever been to. Every time I think of it it brings tears to my eyes."

ARIEL CRITALL
painter
cost of trip: not known
method of travel: car and ferry

"I AM 81, so getting to the Vermeer was a tremendous effort for me. But when you overcome these challenges you feel quite splendid. I went with my friend Orlando, who is 76.

"A friend who lives in The Hague lent us his house as he was away. On Saturday we went to Delft and on Sunday we went to the Vermeer. Our tickets were for 2pm. The exhibition was terribly crowded. My friend is diabetic and was about to give up on me, but I managed to pull him through the crowds to an empty window seat. Despite our difficulties, we had a lovely time."

When a friend's death becomes a rite of passage

How prepared are we for the loss of our contemporaries?

ONE OF my best friends died recently. He had been fighting a painful, debilitating and ultimately hopeless battle against cancer, so his death was hardly a shock. He was facing yet another operation and I was half expecting the call from his wife.

Yet the news still shook me to the core. It was nothing to do with the cliché about emphasising my mortality — I have never needed much reminding of that. Rather, it was that in my early forties, I am not prepared for the loss of contemporaries.

My father died suddenly five years ago, a moment that is one of the classic rites of passage. He, too, should have lived longer, but the shock and sorrow was of a different order. Right from childhood, we fear the death of a parent. But there is no genetic programming where friends are concerned.

Only a year ago Kevin was a fit, fun-loving family man with three school-age children and a promising career. Even as a student, when we shared a house, he never smoked. The injustice of his plight struck everyone during his long illness.

Nor could he have fought the disease more determinedly. Doctors marvelled at the way he survived the initial surgery and even managed a return to his beloved golf course before the recurrence we were all dreading. Even then, he refused to give in.

Having drifted apart after university, we had seen little of each other. In typical male fashion, we never wrote and seldom phoned, but it hardly took a moment to pick up the threads. Kevin never changed: we would still disagree about politics and football, and love every minute of it.

My wife and I drove up to see him after the first operation, and found him weakened but by no means despondent. We tried to do normal things. He managed a short walk and talked of plans for an uncertain future: he came out for a meal, even though eating had ceased to be a pleasure. The laughter was still there, but it was harder to enjoy.

At the time there were still hopes of a recovery, yet I could not help but wonder if we would see him again. On the surface at least, Kevin was the least sentimental of men and the last thing he would have wanted was an emotional parting. We left him promising to visit us when he was stronger, but that time never came.

Instead there were months of tests, more surgery and heart-ache. Although he refused to be confined to bed, as he lost weight and speech became more difficult he became understandably reluctant to see visitors.

Our wives talked regularly. But that male reserve reared its head again. Kevin's head and heart were months of tests, more surgery and heart-ache. Although he refused to be confined to bed, as he lost weight and speech became more difficult he became understandably reluctant to see visitors.

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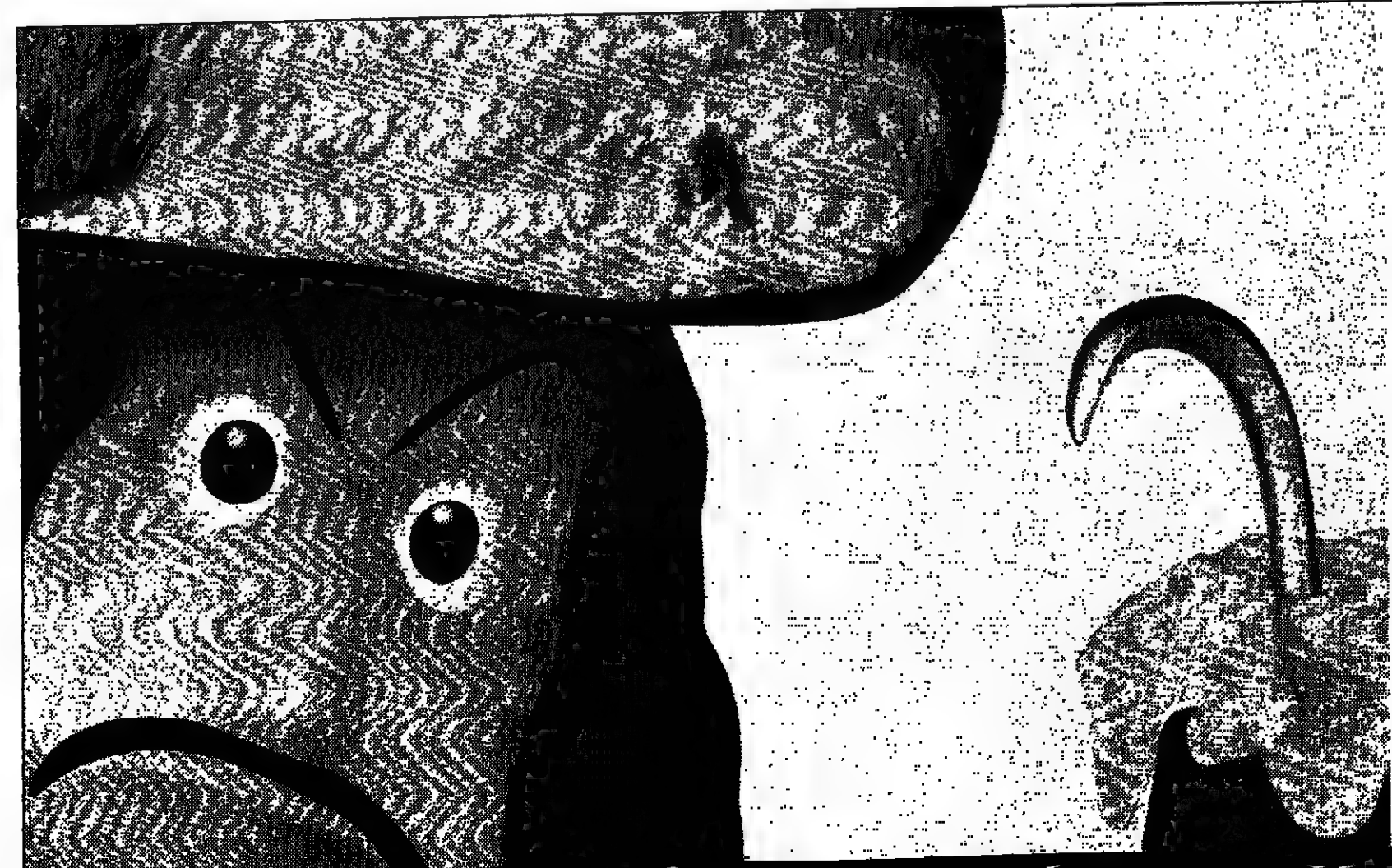
JOHN O'LEARY

That male reserve reared its head again

The funeral was agony, trying not to watch his family grieve, listening to an exquisitely moving poem by his son. Kevin could not have asked for more: the church packed for a non-religious service led by an understanding vicar and his local closed in his honour on a Saturday.

I still feel guilty at my inability to be more help. My only compensation that he would have understood, because he would probably have found it as difficult if roles had been reversed. I would like to think that the experience will make me better able to handle the loss of friends, but I doubt it.

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THE MAGIC IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.

It's a long way to save the Union

Conor Cruise O'Brien on his metamorphosis from Irish nationalist to Unionist candidate

In Ireland, changing from nationalist to Unionist (or vice versa) is exceedingly rare, and is regarded as much more fundamental than a mere shift in party-political allegiance. It is more of an existential metamorphosis. So how did I come to be standing today as a Unionist candidate in the Northern Irish elections?

My family were all Irish nationalists. My maternal grandfather, David Sheehy, sat in the House of Commons from 1885 to 1918 as a member of the Irish Parliamentary Party, pledged to Home Rule. For most of my life I did not challenge the basic nationalist assumptions. The change began for me with the start of the Provisional IRA's offensive in 1971. That autumn, I spoke at the annual conference of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union against the release of Republican prisoners. Motions proposing such releases had always been carried by acclamation, without debate. My intervention, followed by similar moves, marked me out as the most determined opponent in the politics of the Republic of the whole Sinn Féin-IRA programme. But I was still far from being a Unionist.

British withdrawal would mean civil war in Ireland

The next stage in my metamorphosis came three years later, over Sunningdale. I was a member of the Irish Government at the time, and an enthusiast for what I regarded as the core of Sunningdale: the cross-community executive, composed of Unionists and nationalists. But I saw, and told my colleagues, that this was endangered by Dublin's insistence on the silence of a Council of Ireland, the symbolic harbinger of a united Ireland. I warned that insisting on the council would endanger the already precarious position of our indispensable partners, the Faulkner Unionists. None of my Cabinet colleagues was impressed by this argument. I sensed that they didn't much care what happened to any kind of Unionists. And I looked at all those polite, closed faces. I remembered that all my colleagues had had exclusively Catholic educations, whereas I had been at a school and university of Protestant ethos: Sandford Park School and Trinity College Dublin. I began to feel existentially isolated.

After the collapse of the Joint Executive — which was followed by the electoral elimination of all the Faulkner Unionists — I was asked by a reporter what I was doing to bring about a united Ireland. I said I was not working for a united Ireland. I soon became an active opponent of the whole nationalist plan for Northern Ireland. I had ceased to be a nationalist, but I was not yet a Unionist.

The first big step in that direction was when I accepted — about six years ago — an invitation from the late Ian Gow to address the Friends of

the Union at Westminster. I hesitated before accepting. When metamorphosis beckons, the prospect can be daunting. But a few months later when I heard that Ian Gow had been murdered by the IRA, I was glad that I had accepted.

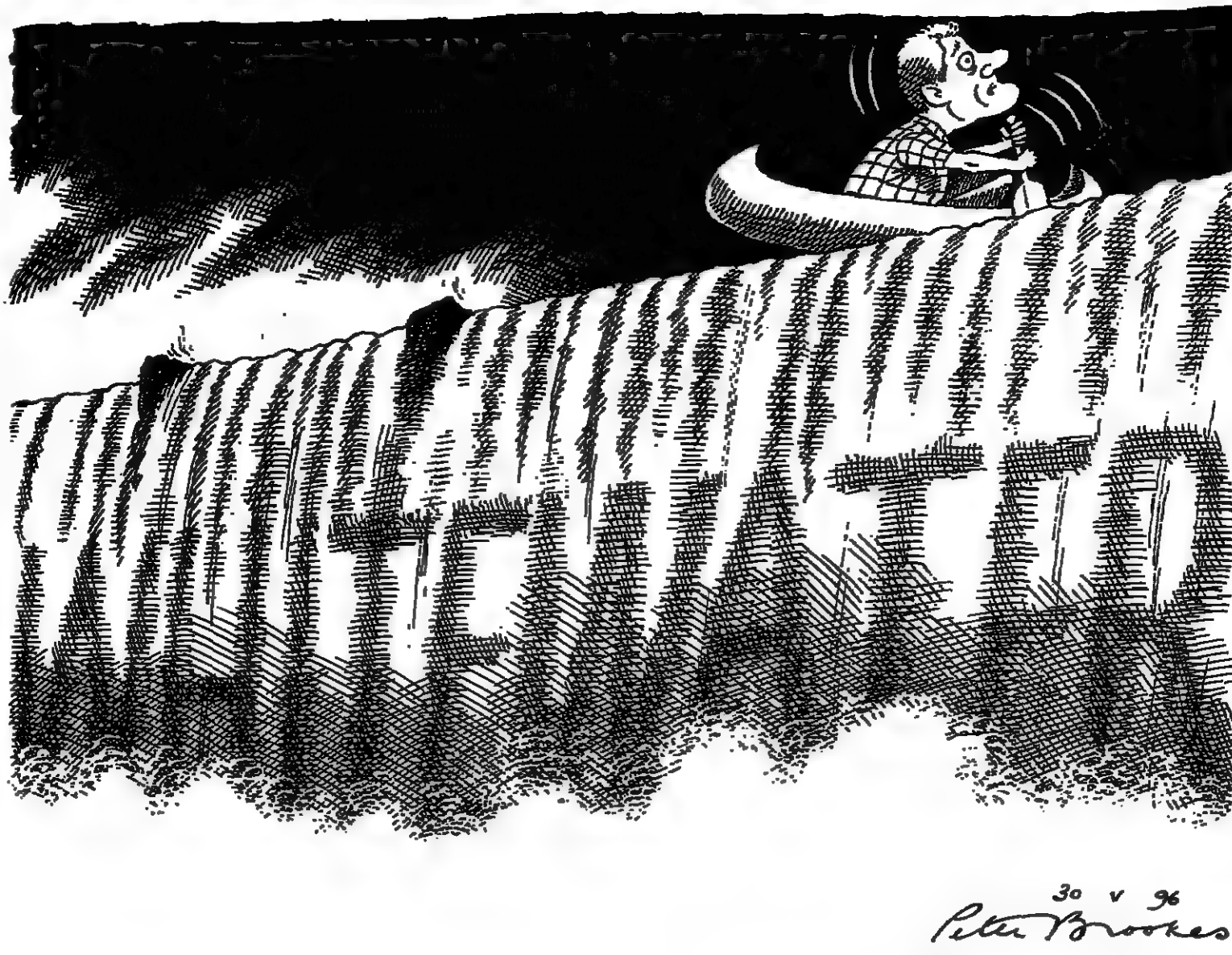
For a time I rather cherished what I now see as a frail distinction. I was a friend of the Union, but not myself a Unionist. But by 1995, when Robert McCartney asked me to join what turned out to be his successful campaign in the Westminster by-election for North Down, I was beginning to get fed up with such distinctions, and had no trouble in accepting.

By this time I was thoroughly disgusted by the condition of Irish nationalism. The old distinction between constitutional nationalism and the physical-force kind has disappeared. Sinn Féin is at the centre of the Irish nationalist version of the peace process. All the nationalist leaders now parrot Sinn Féin'speak, mostly without realising quite what they're doing. The Irish Government's role in its negotiations with the British Government is that of a messenger for Sinn Féin. It sits down with Sinn Féin to prepare drafts to try to sell to the British. The process, supposedly dedicated to peace and reconciliation, is really all about screwing the Unionists. The officials concerned acknowledge this, although never publicly. This month it was revealed in the *Irish Independent* that the object of the negotiations is to induce John Major to say something that will infuriate the Unionists and "drive David Trimble wild".

The IRA is playing cat-and-mouse, having found that violence is most effective when intermittent. As this gives Sinn Féin more scope for blackmail. The objective is to destabilise Northern Ireland and precipitate conflict between loyalist paramilitaries and British troops, so bringing about British withdrawal. This would mean civil war engulfing all Ireland, which is what Sinn Féin-IRA wants. Meanwhile the constitutional nationalists fall to see where all this is leading.

So my metamorphosis was both inevitable and attractive. When Bob McCartney invited me to be a candidate for the United Kingdom Unionists, the party he founded and leads, I joyfully accepted. If, as now seems probable, the party finishes in the top ten, I shall have a seat in the new forum, and shall be an adviser to Bob McCartney in the all-party negotiations.

Metamorphosis is not always a pleasant experience. Kafka, for one, hardly recommends it. But it has made me feel younger, and I hope I shall be elected. We shall know the results tomorrow. If I do win a place in the new forum, I look forward to helping to frustrate Gerry Adams's version of the "peace process".



Is Clinton credible?

Americans are not being told the whole truth about the President

On Tuesday, in Little Rock, Arkansas, Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, secured convictions on 24 charges of fraud, conspiracy and deceit against three close long-term associates of President Clinton. They were Jim Guy Tucker, until Tuesday Clinton's successor as the Democratic Governor of Arkansas, and James and Susan McDougal, Bill and Hillary Clinton's partners in the Whitewater land deal itself. The President testified by video at the trial, denying the claim of Judge Hale that as Governor he had improperly pressed him to make an illegal \$300,000 loan. The President's evidence was rejected by the prosecutor and the jury. David Hale is another old crony of Bill Clinton who appointed him to the bench: he too has been convicted.

That evening I watched the CBS News, read by Dan Rather. The Whitewater convictions ran only second; they were referred to in the opening headlines, but did not start to run in full until halfway through the programme. I remember from the early 1970s the press and television coverage of Watergate, when President Nixon was forced to resign. It is inconceivable that CBS would have handled a major development in that story in the same way. This week's convictions followed the guilty plea of Webb Hubbell, Hillary Clinton's partner in the Rose Law Firm. At least seven "friends of Bill" have now been convicted of serious crimes. Yet the CBS editors did not think the new convictions a big enough story to make their evening lead.

The Clinton character issue is complex and hard to follow, but America's establishment press has done a rotten job of investigating and reporting it. Serious allegations involving both Bill and Hillary extend back at least to the 1970s. They involve accusations of associations with criminals, fraud, corruption in political fundraising, tax offences, police and investigative cover-ups and the abuse of power, both when Clinton was Governor of Arkansas and since he has been President of the United States. They also involve Clinton's own sexual misdemeanours on an obsessive scale, and his evasiveness about them in public. Witnesses have died in mysterious circumstances and their deaths have not been properly investigated. The alleged criminal associations concern con-

victed fraudsters and drug-dealers. In trying to disentangle these issues, one can usefully start with some of the unexplained deaths. The most extraordinary is the "suicide" of Vincent Foster, the Deputy White House Counselor who died in suspicious circumstances in July 1993. His body was found in Fort Marcy Park, just outside Washington. He was stated to have committed suicide there as a result of depression. The allegations are that either he did commit suicide but the body was moved, or that he was murdered.

There are many difficulties with the official suicide story. The body was laid out in what was immediately seen to be an artificial manner: the earlier history of the gun has never been traced; the bullet has never been found; there was too little blood; such bloodstains as there were suggested that the body had been moved; there were many still unidentified carpet fibres on his clothing, including his underwear; witnesses disagreed about the site and size of the exit wound; there was no local soil on the soles of his shoes; the inquiry did not follow normal procedures; evidence has been lost; witnesses were not contacted or were misreported; there were two cars and at least two unknown men reported at the scene but neither the cars nor the men have been identified.

The White House reaction to the death was very strange. There are two pieces of evidence that the death was known in the White House well before the time at which it is supposed to have been reported. Contrary to proper procedure, Foster's office was searched by White House staff. Some of his papers were removed. His briefcase was then searched and found to be empty. Subsequently it was re-examined and found to contain torn scraps of a "suicide note", itself subsequently stated by three handwriting experts to be a forgery. These problems in the evidence do not prove that Foster was murdered, but they cast unresolved doubts on the "suicide" story.

On the other hand, Gerry Parks undoubtedly was murdered, in September 1993, in Little Rock; his murder has never been found. He was shot from another car when driving home. Parks was the head of Clinton's campaign security team in the 1992 presidential election. His family believe he was murdered because he had kept an incriminating file on the President, which was subsequently stolen. There was a dispute about the payment of his bill for campaign services, and he may have tried to obtain payment by threatening blackmail.

William Rees-Mogg

Mena Airport. That was the airport used in the early 1980s by the subsequently murdered Barry Seal to fly arms to the Contras and cocaine into Arkansas. State trooper Brown has testified to Clinton's knowledge of the Mena activity.

The allegation is not that the President is some sort of a serial killer but that his network includes some dangerous and undesirable associates. He does not come from a respectable or, in American terms, normal world. His brother, his half-sister and, it is said, one of his stepfathers, have all served time for serious offences.

When Bill Clinton was Governor, the most serious allegations of corruption concerned the Arkansas Development Finance Agency, a honey-pot which was put through the Arkansas legislature on a bill drafted by Webb Hubbell himself, whose family was the first to take out a development loan. The ADEFA allegations include large loans to cronies, the failure to record loans, payments which were outside the statute, and kickbacks to political funds. As Governor, Clinton had absolute control of ADEFA, which raised a total of \$700 million in bonds, some of which were allegedly used for money-laundering.

Hillary Clinton is involved in a number of the allegations. She was herself a leading member of the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock, with the convicted Webb Hubbell and the dead Vincent Foster among her partners. Many documents from that firm have been shredded. She helped to set up the Whitewater company. As a lawyer she represented James McDougal's fraudulent Savings and Loan company. She even failed to claim a tax deduction for losses from a claim pretended Whitewater losses for tax, although she did remember to claim as a tax deduction Bill's used underpants, which he gave to a charity auction. Hillary supposedly turned \$1,000 into \$100,000 in commodity speculations set up by the lawyer for a wealthy Arkansas company. She lied about her role in Travelgate, when the Clintons used the law to dismiss seven innocent White House travel staff and replace them with cronies. She or her associates seem also to have concealed documents from investigators, which later turned up with her fingerprints on them.

One should not forget the dubious role of Dan Lasater, bond dealer, cocaine convict, employer and co-defendant with Roger Clinton, Bill's brother. When Dan Lasater went to jail he gave a full power of attorney to run his business to Patsy Thomasson, whom Bill Clinton subsequently appointed as the White House administrator, a post she still holds. She was one of the people who searched Vincent Foster's office.

The character issue also concerns Bill Clinton's sex life. Paula Jones is suing him for sexual harassment. He never came clean about his relationship with his long-term mistress Gennifer Flowers — the man in the flat next door to hers had his spleen ruptured when he was beaten up by some heavies who suspected him of having entry videos showing Bill visiting Gennifer. Arkansas policemen have claimed that they pimped for Clinton up to a hundred times.

These are only some of the character issues, but they show how wide the allegations go. In many cases there is evidence on the record; in some cases there have already been convictions. Respectable journalists, of liberal views, living comfortably in New York, still do not want to tell the American public what the allegations are, or what the evidence is. So it is still entirely possible that Clinton will be re-elected in November.

Self-rule is not parochial

Magnus Linklater on Labour's grand design for Scotland

A momentary panic crossed the face of Brian Mawhinney as I approached him. He probably thought I was going to toss a pot of paint at him, whereas all I wanted to do was lodge a mild protest about the speech he had just made. In the course of a trenchant defence of the Union, the Conservative Party chairman had quoted from an article in *The Times* suggesting that not many people understood or were greatly interested in constitutional reform. He had, I thought, taken the paragraph in question out of context, and as its author I felt bound to remonstrate. He apologised but stuck to his guns. What followed was an enjoyable ding-dong about devolution and regionalism — much the same argument that Simon Jenkins and Matthew Parris have been waging in these columns recently.

Dr Mawhinney was saying that the constitutional changes Labour is contemplating, particularly the creation of a Scottish parliament, will end badly for all of us in the long run. They risk breaking up the United Kingdom, an arrangement which works perfectly well, and they will sour relations between the Scots and the English.

To reinforce this, Matthew Parris has tossed in some fairly contentious stuff about curbing Scots and Little Englanders, about the politics of the clenched fist and the outstretched palm. He sees devolution playing into the hands of the parochial and the small-minded. This is the kind of talk that whets the appetite for change among the Scots: at the very word parochial, the fiery cross is raised. If there is one thing they resent it is English condescension.

But Parris's argument is one for rather than against the devolution of power. Part of the attraction of a parliament in Edinburgh is that it could give the Scots greater responsibility for their own affairs, so ending the constant displacement of blame to Westminster. This is the opposite of parochialism. As to the charge that people are not interested in devolution, all one can say is that north of the border it has been part of the political currency for the best part of 20 years. It may not be more urgent than unemployment or health, but a consistent majority has made it clear that it is wanted. To ignore that wish may itself induce a greater instability than the reform itself.

The argument that underlies what Mawhinney and Parris are saying is more contentious. It is that those who support reform do not understand its consequences, so it would be wrong to introduce it. This is dangerous territory — to suggest that Scottish voters are too dumb to understand the issue is to add the charge of ignorance to that of parochialism. Voters understand the broad thrust of policies perfectly well. They expect politicians to attend to the detail, and are not worried about the longer term because it usually takes care of itself.

Of course there are huge problems to resolve, and it is high time that Tony Blair acknowledged rather than ignored them. But it is inadequate to say that they are insuperable, and that the whole game should be abandoned because there is still no satisfactory answer to the "West Lothian question" (so-called after Tam Dalyell, MP for West Lothian, who argued in the 1970s debates on devolution that no parliament would ever tolerate Scottish MPs debating English issues if English MPs had no reciprocal rights).

It is also argued that a Labour government could never contemplate cutting back its Scottish representation in the Commons, because this would permanently remove its majority. The debate would tie up endless parliamentary time, and the net result would be resentment on both sides, with the only winners being the Nationalists waiting in the wings for the whole edifice to collapse.

There is a more robust response, which Labour and the Liberal Democrats should be far more resolute in commending. All the major constitutional changes in Scotland have been made — usually by Tory governments — in stages, in response to clear needs. Problems have been solved in a strictly pragmatic way, and by and large the reforms have worked. This present reform is bigger, but not impossible so. The West Lothian question will be brushed aside for the first time of a Labour government while legislation is introduced; the Scottish representation in Westminster will be maintained, whatever the anomalies. Later on there will have to be some form of two-tier voting in the House, or a reduction in Scottish numbers. That in turn might lead eventually to some form of federal system. This may cause palpitations now, but who is to say what a future generation will make of it? Personally, I would support the tartan tax, because that is what will give a Scottish parliament real teeth, but in the end it is a matter for the voter.

I would certainly not be put off the grand design of a constitutional change that is in tune with much of what is happening in Europe and is clearly wanted by the Scottish people simply because it might irritate some English backbenchers. That is the politics of the wimp.

Fantasy football

TOO much philosophy is behind the desperate indecision of the Football Association, now being manifested in its flustering about how to deal with Paul Gascoigne's mid-air rampage. Evidence comes this Saturday, only a week before the European Championship. Graham Kelly, the FA's pudding-faced chief executive will be appearing at the Royal Festival Hall to participate in Philosophy Football Europe United Day.

This preposterous event begins with Kelly, Rick Parry (chief executive of the Premier League) and Gordon Taylor (head of the players' union) discussing the philosophy of football with fans. A debate will then follow on the role literature can play in football — poems and the penalty kick, that sort of thing. The day will then climax with a four-a-side tournament to be held in the Festival Hall foyer.

Kelly, like Vladimir Nabokov and Pope John Paul II before him, will play in goal. He has promised to wear a shirt bearing the face of another great goalie, Albert Camus, while others will be sporting Wittenstein and, bafflingly, Oscar Wilde.

"I think Kelly is going in goal in case anyone tries to tackle him," says Konrad Caulett, one of the organisers. "None of the England team are invited. I hope they will be in training."

● Frantic rewriting has been going on for the BBC's Poisoned Chalice programme, which tells the story of Britain's uneasy relationship with



"That's the thing about food scores: as soon as one's over it's time for another"

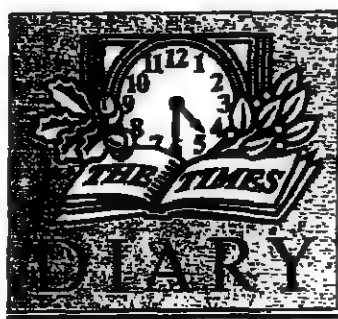
the EEC and EU. Since the Government's decision to use its blackmail, Michael Elliott, the Editor of *Newsweek* and writer of the programme, has been desperately changing the ending to the final episode, to be aired tonight. The pay-off line had been John Major saying "The price of our place in Europe is incalculable" — but no one quite knows what he meant.

Spell it out

NO WONDER Tony Blair decided not to send his son to a school in his home borough of Islington. In recent weeks, Islington council's education department has been sending out reams of taxes trumpeting its achievements under the heading "From Islington Education".

"It's a basic programming problem," is how a council spokesman explains the misspelling. "We have had a word with the machine's administrator, and he is being sent for a half-term intensive spelling course." Not, one hopes, in one of Islington's schools.

● Potential buyers of the Earl and Countess of Wiltton's 18th-century vicarage in Essex have been intrigued by the staircase, which slopes sharply into the wall. "The



wool merchant who built the house and his family all drank a lot," explains the Countess. "Every night they would stagger upstairs clinging to the wall, and after so many years the stairs just began to slope in."

Eton fives?

SNOOZING gently beneath a tree on Agar's Plough at Eton's Fourth of June yesterday was a tubby vicar. For four ink-fingered Etonians, however, he and the ivory-topped cane which lay behind him were irresistible prey.

Fuelled by a Range Rover full of Pimm's, they stalked up behind him, and before he could rise from his celestial reveries, they grabbed his cane and legged it. They whizzed past the swooning blondes crowding around the

Earl of Mornington, grandson of the Duke of Wellington, Captain of the Oppidians and teenage Apollo. Several members of Pop rocked tipsily on their New & Lingwood heels.

Eater one willowy mother. Straw hat akimbo, she strayed into the path of the oncoming miscreants. They way blocked, they dropped their prize and scurpered. Peering over her glasses, she bent down like a drugged giraffe to examine the cane. At ground level, she was joined by the huffing vicar.

"I cursed the urchins," said the vicar, "and all this woman did was say 'Loopy Loo', ask me for a cigarette and lope off for another drink."

Fruity number

CATHOLICISM is a serious business in Nereto in central Italy, where the fearsome Father Silvio de Gregoris has taken to thrusting apples at any women who dare to come to Mass in a mini-skirt. Last Sunday, as his altar-broils brandished the fruit at the culprits, he spoke indignantly of Adam and Eve and original sin. Eyelashes fluttered, and rising hemlines were wriggled back down.

By taking such a firm line on these things, Father De Gregoris, who would need a whole orchard



The Queen of Belgium: told to cover her knees

for High Mass at the Brighton Oratory, is raising the spectre of the great hemlines scandal of 1969. Then, to the gasps of Europe's Catholic aristocracy, the Vatican barred entry to the Queen of Belgium, the Italian-born Donna Paola Ruffo di Calabria. She was told to go away and put on a skirt which covered her knees.

P-H-S



TEST OF NERVE

Major must be patient and fight on

Each side in the beef dispute is testing the other's resolve. Yesterday, Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, deliberately chose to publicise an outburst against this country that he had made in a private meeting. Emma Bonino, Fisheries Commissioner, announced plans for a 40 per cent reduction in the national trawler fleet; other Commission officials announced discriminatory compensation terms for British cattle and gave the Ministry of Agriculture just one day to reveal details about possible contamination of baby milk. The Government meanwhile continues its campaign to obstruct European Union administration and policy initiatives.

It is important that John Major, having chosen this ground on which to highlight his impatience with European ambitions, should keep his nerve and hold his ground. He cannot expect instant approbation among voters to match the enthusiasm of his political and press support. Success must be judged in weeks rather than days.

Our MORI poll today, the first of voting intentions since the new stance was adopted, shows that so far Tory support has slipped slightly and that dissatisfaction with both the Government and the Prime Minister has grown. This has to be set beside Tuesday's NOP poll, showing 54 per cent supporting non-cooperation with only 33 per cent against. If the policy itself is popular, the government has not yet gained credit for it.

Perhaps the public is reluctant to back this Government however sensible its policies are. Some voters may be concentrating only on the beef issue itself, as we have argued in the past, this is hardly the perfect ground on which to do battle. Others may be sceptical — not without reason — of the Government's will to follow the policy through. But each day that passes and each decision that British ministers prevent from passing, should contribute to the Prime Minister's credibility and show supporters who may

doubt him that their doubts are wrong.

Yesterday's attempt by European officials to discomfort Britain ought to harden public opinion in favour of Mr Major. Brussels clearly sees this as a fightback. But the more aggressive the Commission becomes, the harder it will be for Mr Major to climb down. If he is lucky, popular opinion will soon become infuriated with the Commission and swing behind him. If he is unlucky, unsupported, or simply incredible, his latest chance to rescue his political future will fail.

Support at home is crucial. If he wants to move to further stages in his redefinition of Britain's relations with the EU, he will almost certainly have to demonstrate the success of the policy at the polls. Enthusiastic integrationists, such as Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, were swung behind the non-cooperation policy because they saw its political attractions. Although they are both men who see a long and mainly economic path to the polling booths, neither would turn away a chance of boosting their party's popularity.

Mr Clarke gives notice in our interview with him today that he would prefer the non-cooperation to be ended as soon as possible, ideally before Florence. He is utterly against the demands being extended to include, say, repatriation of powers from Brussels. If the Prime Minister does indeed intend to widen his aims, he will run into opposition from his Chancellor and, possibly, his deputy, unless he can prove that he has read the national mood better than they have.

This policy was supposed to fire up the Tories in the polls so that they might have a chance of holding an early general election in the autumn. It was for that reason, as well as pressure from farming voters, that many on the European wing of the party came out in its support. But if our poll is an early portent of others to come, the new-found unity will soon evaporate. Then the chances of an early election will vanish too.

THE CREDIBILITY CHASM

Whitewater and Clinton's conduct elevate character issues

As Bob Dole prepares to leave the Senate next month he faces bad and good news on his electoral prospects. The bad is the consensus that the November contest is Bill Clinton's to lose. The good is that recent events suggest this is what he might do.

The verdicts delivered by the Whitewater jury indicate, at a minimum, that the presidential testimony was not found fully compelling. Had the three defendants been acquitted, the White House would have claimed vindication.

Whitewater, however, is but one factor that raised doubts about the President. The extraordinary claim from his lawyers that the sexual harassment suit against him should be deferred, because as Commander-in-Chief he was protected under the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act 1940, has provoked the reaction it deserved. Republican commercial have ridiculed the notion while outraged veterans' organisations have demanded an apology. The White House has retreated but not retracted on the matter. The profile, both of reports on Mr Clinton's private life and his failure to serve in the Vietnam War has thus been raised.

This concerted barrage of criticism would matter less if the President's political actions offered some sort of repudiation to a set of essentially personal accusations. Instead they reinforce it. In the last month he has embraced a conservative welfare reform plan elements of which he had already vetoed twice, abandoned the homosexual lobby — long amongst his most loyal — on the issue of same-sex marriages, and co-opted a Republican proposal to offer tax credits for adoptions, in which he had shown

no previous interest. The First Lady compounded this volte-face with her sudden interest in a second little Clinton.

More orthodox Democrats have been rather uneasy about this willingness to trade policy positions for popularity. Their concerns extend to personnel matters. In 1993 the President reached for the Republican media operative, David Gergen, to reorganise his faltering Administration. The next year he appointed Robert Bennett, brother of former Republican Cabinet officer William Bennett, to be his personal lawyer, although he may now be regretting that move. By 1995 he had found a new pollster, Dick Morris, whose previous clients were invariably Republican. As one liberal commentator has noted, Mr Clinton appears happy to appease the right wing because all that seemingly matters is his residence of the White House west wing.

Character issues are always an element in presidential elections. That is quite proper given that the role is part symbolic head of state as well as head of government. Many Democrats were willing to ask questions about Ronald Reagan's qualities for office. Nonetheless, it is the Clinton character which will come under scrutiny.

Some thirty years ago Lyndon Johnson's evasions over the direction of the Vietnam conflict brought the phrase "credibility gap" into the American political lexicon. Under Bill Clinton — another Southern Democrat with a probity problem — that gap has widened to a chasm. The electorate will decide what weight to give it.

WEEK OF THE TIGER

Big business and deep pockets could save the big cats

Powerful and threatening, the rising economies of the East have become known as the Asian tigers. Meanwhile the beasts whose qualities of ferocity and grace these states embody are themselves threatened by economic development. Across Asia the numbers of tigers are dwindling. The five different sub-species which still survive could be extinct by the end of the century. In an effort to safeguard the remaining population of the world's biggest cats the Federation of Zoos has nominated this week to be Tiger Week. It is appealing for money to help conservation and deserves the support of all who cherish the wild.

In antiquity the tiger roamed across Asia from the Caspian to the easternmost Indies and the steppes. A fixture across that continent, the tiger entered Europe as a byword for brutality after Alexander the Great encountered it. Virgil had Dido accuse deserting Aeneas of the callousness of a man sucked by a Hyrcanian tiger. Chaucer's squire believed there was "noone so cruel best" as the tygre. Since then the tiger's image has changed, magnificent still but inspiring wonder and even affection as well as fear. Through the sublimity of Blake's *Tiger*, *The Jungle Book* and the like creature of the Esso advertisements the tiger has kept its grip on the British imagination.

It has not, however, maintained its hold in its native home. There were more than 100,000 tigers at the turn of the century; now there are fewer than 5,000. Numbers are still declining. Evidence suggests that nearly

1,000 tigers have been killed in northern India in the past three years. Losses at that rate could see the number of beasts drop below sustainable levels very shortly.

Apparent reasons for the decline are various. Logging in Sumatra and Siberia to feed economic growth has reduced the tigers' habitat and made poaching easier. There are similar pressures to develop land in India. Among the newly wealthy nations of the East there is a distinctly old-fashioned demand for tiger skin and body parts to be used in oriental medicine. A Chinese pharmacopoeia of 1597 still in use today prescribes tiger brain mixed with oil as an embrocation to cure sloth and skin trouble. Demand for dead tiger is such that an average adult carcass can be stripped and all its parts sold for some \$35,000.

To help preserve the tigers, money must be raised to protect their habitat and stop the poachers. Esso, which has ridden to commercial success on the tiger's back, is contributing handsomely to Tiger Week. Its parent company has spent \$5 million on tiger conservation already. But more is needed, to equip an anti-poaching team in Siberia, provide rangers in India, research in Sumatra and support the breeding of tigers in captivity. Critics want every penny spent in the wild, but given the threat to the species it seems wise to ensure that, at the very least, some survive even if behind bars. One day, perhaps, when the causes of their decline are reversed tigers born in Regent's Park may reclaim the jungle crown.

Top brass salvo on Forces pensions

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton and others

Sir, Ugly rumours have come to our ears that the Government is hoping to economise on pensions for the Armed Forces and their dependants in a new Armed Forces pensions scheme, which the Ministry of Defence is devising in the light of both an in-house review and the Bett report on conditions of service (report, May 2). Whether or not this is true, we urge that any new scheme should be opened to discussion in Parliament and public before it is finalised.

We are particularly concerned that the opportunity of its introduction should be taken to remedy certain injustices of the current scheme as it applies to the past. They are:

1. Whereas widows of servicemen who retired in and after 1973 can receive a pension of half the rate of their late husband's pension, those whose husbands retired before then receive only a one-third rate pension;

2. Anomalies arising out of pay-freeses, especially in 1976/77, whereby those retiring in certain years receive a smaller pension than those who retired earlier, should be remedied;

3. The widows of post-retirement marriages, whose husbands retired before 1978, should qualify for a pension to bring them into line with those whose husbands retired thereafter.

Two of these injustices would have been remedied last year by the proposed amendments to the Pensions Bill in the House of Lords which, on the Government's advice, were rejected by the House of Commons.

We also draw attention to the fact that, although a serviceman's pay is "abated" as a notional contribution to his pension scheme, he receives no immediate benefit from it unless he serves to pensionable age, which many do not. This is particularly hard on those in the ranks, few of whom serve for 22 years to qualify for an immediate pension. In any event, the compulsory abatement of a serviceman's pay must be acknowledged as the serviceman's contribution to a future pension.

Any new pension scheme must recognise the unique character of the Armed Forces, which cannot be equated, as the Treasury argues, with other public services. The new scheme must recognise the special requirement to provide for compulsory early retirement in order to ensure that our serving sailors, soldiers and airmen are young and fighting fit.

Yours faithfully,
HILL-NORTON
(Chief of Defence Staff, 1971-73),
CARVER
(Chief of Defence Staff, 1973-76),
LEWIN
(Chief of Defence Staff, 1976-82),
BRAMALL
(Chief of Defence Staff, 1982-85),
CRAIG
(Chief of Defence Staff, 1985-91),
House of Lords,
May 29.

Witness support

From the President of the British Psychological Society

Sir, While I am in complete agreement with Ruth Pitter (letter, May 21) about the useful training provided by the Crown Court witness service, there is one category of witness who I believe does require specific training.

Evidence of expert witnesses is often vital to the outcome of due process. Therefore, how evidence is prepared and delivered, as well as how questions are answered and how cross-examination is handled, are crucial issues. These matters can and need to be covered in training courses, especially for the expert who is giving evidence for the first time.

The British Psychological Society has developed such a training package, under the title of "Expert testimony: developing witness skills".

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET McALLISTER,
President,
The British Psychological Society,
St Andrews House,
48 Princes Road East,
Leicester,
May 21.

Student loans

From Mr Colin Ward

Sir, Far from being on the verge of collapse because graduates have been unable to repay their student loans, as you report (earlier editions, May 21), the Student Loan Company is continuing to expand and improve the service we offer our customers.

The regulations governing the student loans scheme include provisions enabling any borrower whose income is less than 85 per cent of average earnings (currently some £15,200) to defer their repayments. The vast majority of borrowers who are due to make repayments are doing so: as at March 31 this year this company had collected over 94 per cent of all monies due.

We are currently administering over 12 million accounts and have paid out over 500,000 loans so far this academic year.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN WARD
(Chief Executive),
Student Loans Company Limited,
100 Bothwell Street, Glasgow 2,
May 23.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prejudice, fear and ignorance that exacerbate beef crisis

From Mrs Edwina Currie, MP for Derbyshire South (Conservative)

Sir, Two aspects of the Prime Minister's new approach towards Europe deserve our support. One is his sending of various ministers to the capitals of Europe to explain our case for the removal of the beef ban. The other is his decision to take that ban to the European Court of Justice to have it ruled illegal.

He has a strong argument under Single Market rules. Other countries have no more right to protect their own commercial interest by refusing our exports of food than they have to stop trade in cars or soap. Their fearful reactions, we can point out, are causing great damage to their domestic farming industries. We are all in this together.

It is odd, therefore, that such admirable and sensible actions are in direct conflict with the Government's stated policy of non-cooperation. Moreover, by seeking the help of the European Court, ministers are acknowledging its importance. The enhancement of the court's powers in the Maastricht treaty resulted from direct pressure from John Major: so why now allow the Home Secretary to demand "their repatriation"? It doesn't make sense.

Incidentally, what a good thing these issues are decided in Europe by majority voting. Were votes in play we would never get the ban lifted. Has anybody in Whitehall thought of that, when the veto is held up as the best way to protect British interests?

Confused? You bet. So are my Derbyshire farmers. And, it appears, Mr Blair. But so are many Tories who deplore the outrageous attacks on the European Union when the causes and cure of the beef problem are closer to home. Particularly when they emanate from a Government whose leader proudly proclaimed on taking office that our country's place was at the very heart of Europe.

Yours faithfully,
EDWINA CURRIE,
House of Commons,
May 28.

From Mr Christopher Booker

Sir, Your report (earlier editions, May 28) of the fear of environmental health officials that "unscrupulous farmers" may exploit a "loophole in the hygiene regulations" to sell "contaminated meat" from cattle over 30 months old.

What a telling instance this is of the way the BSE madness compounds itself. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health has no grounds whatever for describing such meat as

"contaminated". Back in March the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee merely recommended that, to be on the safe side, meat from cattle over 30 months should be deboned before it was sold. At the time ministers emphasised that such meat was perfectly safe to eat, and this was confirmed by the World Health Organisation.

But then those same ministers quite arbitrarily decided that all such cattle should be destroyed, not for health reasons but as a measure to "restore consumer confidence", not least with the European Community. And so subtly does one half-baked assumption slide into the next that two months later supposedly responsible health officials can cheerfully describe all such meat as "contaminated". How can we ever escape from this self-reinforcing cycle of lunacy?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER,
The Old Rectory, Limon, Bath,
May 28.

From Mr M. J. Copley

Sir, Perhaps John Major recalls that in 1965 President Charles de Gaulle successfully used the tactic of withdrawing French co-operation from the EEC over an issue he considered to be of vital national interest. The Prime Minister may also have noted that less than a year after the "crisis of the empty chair" de Gaulle was re-elected for a new term in office. Another precedent?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. COPLEY,
31 The Cricketers,
Kirkstall Lane,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
May 25.

From Mr S. P. Hodson Pressinger

Sir, Our Government surely must take a closer account of international opinion on the eradication of BSE. In its apparent insensitivity to foreign consumers' genuine fears and in its failure to approve additional measures to remove BSE from the food chain it undermines both the force of scientific logic and its own legal case in winning back global confidence in British beef.

Yours faithfully,
SELWYN HODSON PRESSINGER,
4 Lyall Street, SW1,
May 28.

From Mr Neil Datson

Sir, BSE is predominantly a British problem. But Mr John Murray and

your other correspondents of May 25 might ask why it is so predominantly a British problem. Simply, because the UK is the only country in the EU that is looking for it. Switzerland, whose control measures mirror those of the UK, has found 211 cases; more than the whole of the EU except Britain. How strange.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL DATSON,
Glebe Farm, Speisbury, Oxford,
May 29.

From Professor Emeritus S. John Pirt

Sir, William Rees-Mogg has done us a service by attending the Royal Society of Medicine meeting on BSE and writing a valuable account of it (article, May 20). The aspect which concerns me, as a microbiologist, is the sparsity of knowledge about BSE.

The outstanding fact is that we do not yet know what is the disease agent, and until we do there seems little hope that the crisis will go away. Clearly the efforts made so far to identify the agent have not been commensurate with the size of the problem. This is not surprising, given the Government's commitment to cut back on scientific research as much as possible.

Much more could be done to accelerate research into BSE. It should be possible to find ways and means, probably using a tissue-culture system in place of animals, to reduce the time required for infection tests to weeks or days instead of years.

To target the causative agent of BSE, I advocate the formation of a task force of about 200 scientists and technicians to supplement the small isolated groups now at work on the problem. Given enlightened leadership, the task force ought to solve the problem in two to three years. That would cost only about £10 million per year, a trivial amount compared with the cost of BSE. However, I would also add a further £10 million to be paid out, tax free, to all members of the task force, in proportion to the income they derive from it. If they reach their target within three years. What is sauce for, say, the merchant banker, is sauce for the scientist.

Once the causative agent has been discovered, the necessary means to identify the limits to the disease and bring it under control should be rapidly found.

Yours faithfully,
S. JOHN PIRT
(Emeritus Professor of Microbiology),
25 The Street, Brecon, Powys,
May 21.

British Library science

From the Chief Executive of the British Library

Sir, Mr Richard Gallafent's proposal (letter, May 21) for the return of most of the British Library's science holdings to the Department of Trade and Industry, in order to relieve pressure on our new building in St Pancras, would exacerbate the BL's resource problem.

Not only would an alternative host institution have to find massive start-up costs, but significant economies of scale — for cataloguing, acquisitions and storage, for example — would be lost.

It is true that we worry about readers' space at St Pancras. Broadly speaking, over the past five years demand on reader spaces in our existing London reading rooms has increased by 9 per cent. But demand for services which do not necessitate visiting our buildings, such as document supply, bibliographic reference and business information, has grown by 18 per cent. We expect that divergent trend to continue.

As far as patents are concerned, in which Mr Gallafent has a specific interest, over 2.5 million current patents are now stored in Southampton Buildings, Holborn, on CD-Rom. These

can be accessed conveniently without having to visit the building.

The BL plays a critical role in supporting the British economy, its educational capacity and its cultural enrichment, in part because of the wide-ranging nature of its collections. Hiving off science and technology from the British Library would do great harm to the provision of information in this country for business, science and industry.

The move to St Pancras will allow us to bring together in one highly automated building most of those disparate collections and services now spread across London, and will enable us to provide the service which UK industry will need in the 21st century.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LANG,
Chief Executive,
The British Library,
96 Euston Road, NW1,
May 23.

From Mr Stephen Bartlett

Sir, Mr Gallafent's proposal that the British Library's science holdings should stay put in Southampton Buildings, Holborn, whether or not under the aegis of the DTI, must have caused many regular users (like myself) to drop their breakfast toast (but-

ter-side down), faint with horror. I trust that it will go no further.

Firstly, not all the library's science holdings are housed at Holborn: biomedical and other subjects are kept at the Aldwych reading room. The subject split — eg, chemistry (Holborn) and biochemistry (Aldwych) — is unavoidably arbitrary, forcing many of us to oscillate between the two with great frequency (like delocalised electrons). Merely bringing these under one roof in the new building at St Pancras will constitute a devoutly hoped-for improvement in working efficiency.

Secondly, both the Holborn and Aldwych premises are extremely uncomfortable, particularly the basement at Holborn, which houses the business collection. Surely Mr Gallafent does not wish to deny both readers and staff the enormous improvement in this respect that any new building must offer?

No, onwards to St Pancras, please, as quickly as possible — even if we have to stand while reading. Surely a few pence could be spared to purchase a lectern or two?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BARTLETT,
6 Royston Court, Lichfield Road,
Kew Gardens, Surrey,
May 21.

Bitter bit

From Mr Malcolm Ginsberg

Sir, Harvey Elliott's interesting article, "Does air travel have a future?" (Travel, May 23), highlights the influence of the small, highly articulate anti-airport lobby. Can I make a practical suggestion: let the airlines draw up a blacklist of those who are opposed to airports. Upon checking in for their next holiday flight an alarm would function on the computer and the passenger would be informed that, as they were opposed to airport development, the airline was refusing them travel.

Yours etc,
MALCOLM GINSBERG (Editor),
Flight International Directories,
PO Box 1315,
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire,
May 23.

Fortunes of war

From Professor James S. Harrison

Sir, So, it is "hard cheese" (letter, May 25) that Napoleon got bogged down in the mud at Waterloo. Or, as Mareschal Bosquet nearly said on a later occasion: "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas Gruyère."

Yours faithfully,
JAMES S. HARRISON,
Hendon Lawn, Cudnall Street,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
May 25.

Activists and Blair

From the Chair of Labour Reform

Sir, Your report of May 24, headed "Authoritarian Blair angers Labour activists", reflected many of the concerns of our members. However, to state that "activists have clashed with Tony Blair" misrepresents Labour Reform, a network always careful to avoid personality politics.

We are promoting a thoughtful and considered debate on policy mechanisms and party structures. Our sole aim is to ensure that Labour enters the next century as a party for the many, not just for the few, firmly rooted in the community and committed to ensuring that all its members have a genuine stake in its future.

Our members, both from the Left and from the Right, are in the mainstream of the party. Our main aim at present is the return of a Labour Government at the next election and to see Tony Blair installed as Prime Minister. Far from opposing Mr Blair, we will all be working hard to achieve the Labour victory which we believe to be crucial for the future of this country.

Yours sincerely,
ANDY HOWELL,
Chair,
Labour Reform,
PO Box 5219, Birmingham B13 8DY,
May 24.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDRA SCOTT,
Lea Bank, Tredington,
Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire,
May 22.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Sounds right

From Mr George Chandler

Sir, Mr John Rowe Townsend (letter, May 16) will be pleased to learn that, in the shires, popular recognition of some hitherto-neglected musicians is growing.

Amongst the audience at a recent musical concert, according to our local weekly the *Reading Chronicle*, was the celebrated guest Lady Barbara O'ly.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE CHANDLER,
52 Chazey Road,
Caversham,
Reading, Berkshire,
May 16.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 28: The Princess Royal today visited Aberdeen and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen (Mrs Margaret Farquhar, the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness this morning opened Kewer National Limited, Kewer Estate, Duncraig, Kirkcubright Industrial Estate, Duncraig.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited B.P. Davidson, Muggieburn Mills, Buckburn.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Scottish Institute of Sports Medicine and Sports Science, later chaired the second meeting of the Advisory Council of the Institute at the University of Aberdeen, Old Aberdeen Campus.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Victim Support Scotland, afterwards visited the Aberdeen Victim Support Scheme at 4 Albany Place.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 29: Sir Cuthbert Sebastian was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Governor-General of St Kitts and Nevis.

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, received Colonel Donald Macleod (Honorary Colonel, Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps).

Mrs Fenwick was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Robert Gieve (President, the Royal Warrant Holders Association) was received by The Queen and presented a gift to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Seventieth Birthday.

Mrs Margaret Barbour (Past President, Mr Samuel Twining (Honorary Treasurer) and Colonel Christopher Pickup (Secretary) were present.

The Queen received Fellows participating in the Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship Scheme to promote Commonwealth Understanding.

Dr Humayun Khan (Director of the Commonwealth Foundation) was present.

Her Majesty, Patron, this evening attended a Reception given by the Royal School of Church Music at St James's Palace and was received by the Director (Mr Harry Bramma).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 29: The Duke of York today visited York to mark the Six Hundredth Anniversary of the granting of the first Charter and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Worsley, Bt).

His Royal Highness this morning visited an exhibition of local enterprise in the Guildhall.

The Duke of York afterwards opened the new One-Step community centre.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Luncheon at the Assembly Rooms.

The Duke of York later visited the urban regeneration project at Bell Farm Housing Estate.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner in Merchant Adventurers' Hall.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 29: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Agricultural Society of England, today attended the President's Day at the Moredun Foundation, Pentlands Science Park, Penicuik, Midlothian.

Her Royal Highness this evening opened the display by Henry Poole and Company in the Tait and Cross Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 29: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited the Horse Rangers Association at their Headquarters, The Royal Mews, Hampton Court Palace.

Royal engagements

The Queen will give a reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.30 to mark the 1996 quinquennial conference of the Royal Life Saving Society.

The Princess Royal, as Chancellor of London University, will open a new library at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, at 10.20, will unveil a commemorative plaque to Dame Anna Neagle and Herbert Wilcox at Aldford House, Park Lane, at noon; will attend a reception at Grosvenor House Hotel at 12.10; as President of Selva, will attend an evening Foreman awards luncheon at 1.05 Piccadilly at 12.45; as President of the Animal Health Trust, will attend an industry committee meeting for the first launch of a corporate membership scheme at Buckingham Palace at 3.00. Later, as President of the Rural Housing Trust, she will attend an evening reception at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors at 6.30 to mark their twenty first anniversary.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Friends of the Elderly and Gentefolk's Help, will visit the society's home, Redcot, Haslemere, at 2.30.

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The sculptor Vivien Mallock with Major-General Peter Martin, president of the Normandy Veterans Association, at the Imperial War Museum yesterday in front of a tank used by Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein (Monty), commander of Allied Land Forces in the liberation of Normandy. They were announcing that Prince Michael of Kent is to unveil a statue of Monty by Mrs Mallock in Normandy on June 6, the 52nd anniversary of D-Day, at the small town of Colleville-Montgomery. The town changed its name in 1946 in honour of Monty.

Lloyd of Kilgerran Prize 1996

Foundation for Science and Technology
Professor Sir William Stewart and Dr W. Graham Richards are the winners of the 1996 Lloyd of Kilgerran Prize for Science and Technology, which is, unusually, awarding two prizes this year.

Professor Stewart is the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser and was especially recommended for the prize for his work in introducing the Technology Foresight Programme. Dr Richards, of the Physical and Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory, Oxford University, is a pioneer of computer-aided molecular design. The prize of £2,000 is awarded annually to commemorate the late Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, first President of the Foundation for Science and Technology.

Latest wills

Professor Elyon John Richards, of Romsey, Hampshire, aeronautical engineer, Vice-Chancellor of Loughborough University 1987-93, left estate valued at £110,923 net. Mr Reginald Harold Blofield, of Chesham, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £431,045 net. Dorothy Isabel Thomson, of Southbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £2,457,135 net.

She left a number of personal belongings, and the residue equally between her three children. Mr William Andrew Gordon Cummings, of Farnham, Surrey £639,445.

Mr Henry James Holloway, of Church Bratton, Northamptonshire £952,819.

Mrs Mary Violet King, of Thornton Heath, Surrey £502,414.

Mr John Mather Moffitt, of Wolverhampton, West Midlands £354,908.

Mr Patrick Evelyn Nesbitt, of Epsom, Surrey £92,211.

Mr Hugh Herbert Ross, of London SW3 £2,799,524.

Mr William Thomas Rowland, of Long Wharton, Leicestershire £748,435.

Ethel Marion Vokins, of Brighton, East Sussex £703,249.

Miriam Gwyneth Wallis, of Bodmin, Cornwall £553,148.

Mr Roger Newdigate, of Arbury, Warwickshire £179,418.

Mr Alfred Austin, of Poole, Dorset £179,418.

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King's College London

Recent grants include:
School of Mathematics

Professor J. B. Thomas 290,000 Ecu (European Commission) to support a research project entitled *Control of endotoxin in renal cell carcinoma*.
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University news

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.L. Baxendale
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Baxendale, of Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire, and Valerie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eugene Bouchet, of Paris.

Mr T.D. Cecil
The engagement is announced between Thomas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D.H. Cecil, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.R. Wyborn, of Watlington-on-Thames, Surrey.

Mr P.D.H. Kinnmonth
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Kinnmonth, of Ashmore, Dorset, and Annie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jim Thompson, of East Lulworth, Dorset.

Mr A. Kabli
The engagement is announced between Nicole, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.R. Wyborn, of Watlington-on-Thames, Surrey, and Alex Kabli, who will take place June 1, 1996, at Kyburg, Switzerland. R.R. Balz Fitz will officiate.

The Rev R.A.R. Macleod
The engagement is announced between Rory, elder son of Mr and Mrs Donald A. Macleod, of Kinlochharrat, Isle of Skye, and Annie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alastair M. Macleod, of Grimsbury, Isle of Lewis.

Mr I.E. Parkinson
The engagement is announced between I.E. Parkinson, of Leppington, North Yorkshire, and Miss P.C.S. Denness, of Leppington, North Yorkshire, are very delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Pam, to Ian, son of Mr and Mrs David Parkinson, of Cottingham, Hull.

Marriages

Major G.A.C. Ramsay
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 25, 1996, in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee, of Major Greville Ramsay, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, youngest son of the late Alan Ramsay and of Mrs Frances Beveridge, and Miss Gabrielle Wedderburn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Wedderburn. Father James Foley officiated, assisted by the Rev S. Kennon.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Anna and Laura Wedderburn, Benita and Christian Turner-Brigden, Sian Carney-Arbutnot, Katie Stephens, Lydia Thurlow, Joshua Styles and Henry Mitchell. Major John Ormerod was best man. The reception was held at Mountgahane and the honeymoon is being spent on Skye.

Mr P. Roblin
The marriage took place on May 25, at the Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon, of Mr Paul Roblin, FRCS, son of Mr and Mrs David Roblin, of Cardiff, and Dr Rosanne L. Whitfield, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Whitfield, of Kingston, Surrey.

The reception was held at The Hilton Hotel, Cobham, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Legal appointments
Mr Geoffrey Lord and Mr Owen Williams to be District Judges, Mr Lord assigned to the North Eastern Circuit and Mr Williams to the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Mrs Jessica Ruth Hill to be a full-time chairman of Industrial Tribunals with effect from July 1. She will be assigned to the London North Region.

Anglicans get back their church in Moscow

FROM RICHARD BRESTON, IN MOSCOW

MORE than 70 years after the Bolsheviks commandeered the Anglican church in Moscow, the hardy red-brick building in the heart of the Russian capital has finally been handed back to its rightful owners.

St Andrew's, a solid Victorian edifice which sits incongruously beside the city's ornate golden-domed Russian Orthodox churches, has been returned to the control of the Anglican community and is now being used for services.

"I always believed we would get St Andrew's back, but sometimes I worried that the process might drag on into the next century," Canon Chad Coussmaker, the head of the Anglican Church in Russia, said. "It is very exciting finally to retake possession after all these years."

The handover, thought to be the first time pre-Revolution property has been returned to foreign ownership, came after years of intense lobbying on the Russian Government by the Queen, Lambeth Palace and Moscow's 200 Anglican parishioners.

Under the agreement, the property was taken away from Melodya, a Russian record company which occupied the site, by the State Property Committee which has given it to the Anglican Church in perpetuity. Although the long battle with Russian bureaucracy for the return of the church is over, a new struggle is now under way to raise the estimated £1.5 million needed to repair the neglected church and its paragonage.

The Anglicans, who can trace their first religious services in Russia back to the time of Ivan the Terrible, built their first chapel in Moscow in 1706. St Andrew's, which was completed in 1894, was confiscated along with other churches, mosques and synagogues by the Bolsheviks as part of their attempt to impose atheism on the Soviet Union.

The Soviet authorities repeatedly turned down British efforts to get St Andrew's back. In one application made by the British Government in 1923, after the church had been rented to the Finnish Government, a young second secretary at the embassy in Moscow noted correctly that "the Soviet Government will certainly refuse to ignore this request and let the premises to someone else."

In 1955 a visiting Anglican priest tried to gain access to the site but was turned away on the ground that it was a girls' hostel and men were forbidden. Since 1960 the church has been used as a recording and rehearsal studio by musicians.

After President Yeltsin's decree in 1993 granting congregations the right to take back their houses of worship, the Anglicans, with the support of the Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II, renewed their efforts to regain the church. The next challenge for the resurgent Anglican community in Russia will be to reclaim the church of St Mary's in St Petersburg, which still has its original organ and stained glass windows and is being used today as a souvenir shop.

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JOHN HAYCRAFT

DOROTHEA BRAUS

REAR-ADMIRAL LEWIS COMBS

His wife, Laura, died in March this year. They had been married for 71 years. He leaves no immediate survivors.

PERSONAL COLUMN

I am, Sir, your very humble Servant,
London, May 14, 1806. A TAYLOR'S WIDOW.

NEWS

Brussels hits back against veto

Europe launched a counterstrike against Britain's blocking tactics. After Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, had accused John Major of "hostage-taking", Brussels announced measures that angered Euro-sceptics.

The Commission said more beef compensation would be given to German and French farmers. It also said that most EU fishing fleets must face a 40 per cent reduction and that it must be given details of the brands in the formula milk scare, which have not yet been divulged in Britain. Page 1

Dunblane teacher tells of massacre

Teachers told the Dunblane inquiry of the moments when Thomas Hamilton opened fire. Mary Blake said: "I can remember the children shouting. It was so loud that the screams seemed to be inside my head". Pages 1, 8, 9

Tories slip back

The Tories have failed to reap any immediate electoral benefit from the beef confrontation with the European Union, a MORI poll reveals. Page 1

Early Peres lead

Early exit polls from the Israeli elections showed Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, leading by a narrow margin. Polls gave Mr Peres a lead of between 1-5 per cent over Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of Likud. Page 1

Unruffled Clarke

An unruffled Kenneth Clarke delivered a double rebuff to Tory rightwingers, refusing to promise tax cuts or to sign up for a long beef war with Europe. Page 2

Peace for Duchess

The Duchess of York will begin a quest to find "inner peace" in her new life as a single working mother after her divorce is made absolute today. Page 3

New hospital beds

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, ordered extra intensive care beds for critically ill children to try to stem complaints that hospitals are repeatedly turning youngsters away. Page 5

Death mountain

The actor Brian Blessed criticised climbers who had turned Everest into a "mountain of death" through their selfish pursuit of the summit. Page 7

Washington speech found under sofa

The Library of Congress in Washington emerged last night as a likely bidder for an important early American document found under a sofa in a Suffolk country house. Book experts are satisfied that the single sheet of paper is the work of George Washington and is a missing fragment of a draft of the speech he intended to give at his inauguration. Page 1

Reporter's aid

Martin Bell, the BBC's war correspondent in the former Yugoslavia, is helping a victim of the conflict to complete her education in Britain. Page 10

Ulster poll fears

Voters go to the polls in Northern Ireland amid fears that the historic election to all-party talks will attract a low turn-out. Page 13

War crimes trial

Anthony Loyd asks: what are the practical benefits that the trial in The Hague will have for reconciliation among victims of war crimes in Bosnia? Page 14

Clinton uncertainty

President Clinton's future in Washington looked much less certain after the sensational convictions of his political heir and former partner in the first big Whitewater trial. Page 15

Naval smugglers

The battered image of the US Navy suffered a fresh blow with the disclosure that 21 American sailors have been arrested in Naples for smuggling heroin and cocaine into Italy. Page 16

Yeltsin offer

President Yeltsin stepped up the pressure to achieve a peace settlement in Chechnya before the June 16 presidential election with the announcement of a new power-sharing treaty for the republic. Page 17



Jewish settlers, all armed with Uzi sub-machineguns, waiting to vote in the West Bank town of Hebron yesterday. Page 1

SPORT

Misery Line: Shares in Prism Rail, the company that runs the so-called misery line from London to Southampton, doubled in first dealings on the stockmarket. Page 25

Lloyds: The Lloyd's of London insurance market is under pressure to provide its hardest hit names with an annual "pension" as part of its multi-billion settlement offer to 34,000 names. Page 25

Power battle: More than 1,000 jobs are likely to go in the south of England if Southern Electric wins a bid for Southern Water launched yesterday. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 15.5 to 3775.7. Sterling rose from 85.1 to 85.4 after a rise from \$1.5122 to \$1.5189 and from DM2.3410 to DM2.3472. Page 26

FOOTBALL

The Football Association has been forced to admit that the reported vandalism on the England team's flight from Hong Kong is more than a storm in a champagne glass. Page 48

Tennis: Andre Agassi, the third seed, was knocked out in the second round of the French Open, the only grand slam event has still to win. Page 48

Crickets: Jack Bannister, president of the Cricketers' Association, has resigned because of his involvement with a controversial book by Ray Illingworth. Page 48

Athletics: Denise Lewis, the British heptathlon champion, who has been an actress and a model, now has her sights set on an Olympic medal. Page 46

ARTS

Films of the week: The Coen brothers strike cinematic gold with their new Cannes award-winning film *Fargo*, while Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino fail to score with their juvenile romp *From Dusk Till Dawn*. Page 51

Change of direction: The renowned theatre director Robert Lepage experiments with storytelling in his first film as a director, *Le Confessionnel*. Page 51

New video releases: Pierce Brosnan, the best Bond since Connery, hits the small screen in the thrilling *GoldenEye*. Page 58

Damp debut: There aren't many laughs in *The Comedy of Errors*, the Shakespearean production that opened the Open Air Theatre season in Regent's Park. Page 59

FEATURES

Going to Vermeer: Seven people talk about their pilgrimage to The Hague to visit one of the most popular exhibitions of the century. Page 19

Silent partner: There are gays and lesbians working in most large companies but one in five feel the need to keep quiet. Page 18

Dr Thomas Stuttaford looks at the way twins are treated; plus the dangers of taking too many slimming pills. Page 18

BOOKS

Into another world: Linda Colley studies Pitt the Younger; Woodrow Wyatt on Asquith's daughter; and Roger Scruton analyses a licence to kill. Page 41

TRAVEL

No-go area: Thomson has discovered that the Riviera is failing to tempt the British. Page 35

Bargains of the week: The latest offers on holidays, ferries, flights and hotels. Page 34

THE PAPERS

The two rivals in the Israeli elections, Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu, have based their respective appeals on pithy word-play: Peres wants peace in order to have security, Netanyahu security in order to have peace. A victory for Peres would be more reassuring for the world. —ABC, Madrid

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

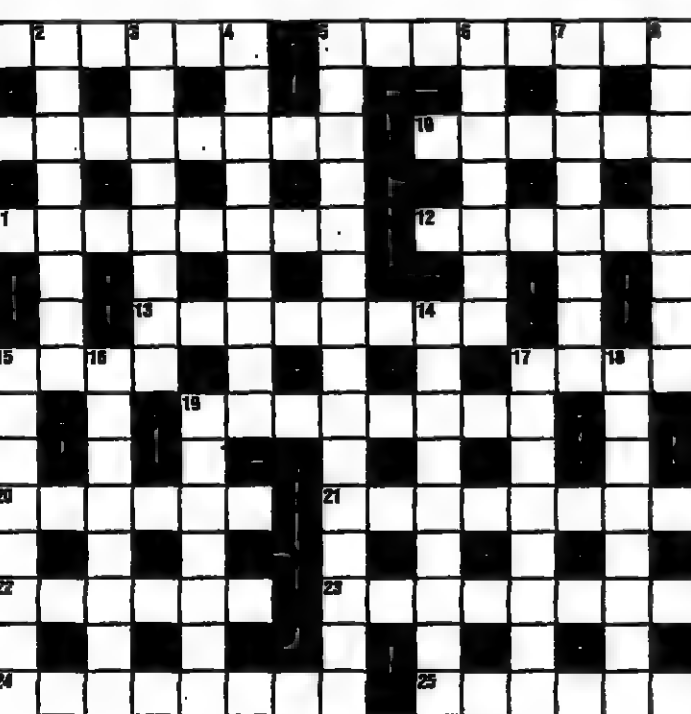
INTERVIEW
Valerie Grove meets producer Robert Fox (left) whose first film, *A Month by the Lake*, stars Edward Fox and Vanessa Redgrave

WIN VIP TICKETS

Tickets to the British Masters Championship to be won



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,181



ACROSS

- 1 Keenness shown by a coach's first university crew (6).
- 5 Go beyond what's improper to a church (8).
- 9 Course that's clear when there's disorder in Commons, note (8).
- 10 Deliveries left before end of the day, too (6).
- 11 Confines a noblewoman within Italy (8).
- 12 Foreign cheers for model (6).
- 13 Fruit put on stake's come out earlier (8).
- 15 Said to stop supply of drink - on what occasion? (4).
- 17 Stock reaction producing excitement (4).
- 19 Still, like head, not moved to disengage (8).
- 20 It affords limited turning in position (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,180

TRANSOM PARABLE
A LEAKY TUB
GRIMALKIN GRASP
E B F E U V E
NYALIA STAGEHAND
D S H A S E O I I
GAMOURTHESHOST
A R O I O
BERKSHIREDDOWNS
S E A V E Y O S E
EPAULEMENT TABOO
I D I U M U N
LOIRE GUERRILLA
E I G A N N A T
DIGGERS TESSERA

DOWN

- 21 Scientific equipment to check transport (4-6).
- 22 Buy influence (6).
- 23 A game with aggressive American requires a prepared defence (8).
- 24 Friend at nursery school helping to take girl back in (8).
- 25 Wake participant with extra enthusiasm (6).
- 27 Providing shade to Aussie bloke avoiding heat, initially (8).
- 28 One unable to perform without notes (8).
- 29 Figure giving address with political significance (6-3).
- 30 What customs may require one to do? It's easy to judge (4-3-4-4).
- 31 Piece of music, one held in respect a great deal (7).
- 32 A crowd going to *The King and I* for entertainment after sport (5-3).
- 33 Rick on the farm gets stuck after country dancing (8).
- 34 Evaluate goods held in appropriate plant (4-5).
- 35 Event that's fantastic crowd-puller? Not half (5-3).
- 36 Trip in Crete taken by Athenian character and others from Rome (2-6).
- 37 Flaw in the deal is both a problem and a tricky situation (8).
- 38 Like a fiddler's movement sideways (8).
- 39 Source of energy that's symbolically acceptable? (7).

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will start mostly dry, apart from patchy light rain in the north and west. Sunny periods should develop, but cloud and light rain will spread from the west across all parts later. Becoming breezy. Very warm in the southeast. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be wet and windy, the rain heaviest in the west. Brighter, showery weather should reach Northern Ireland during the afternoon and spread across the whole of Scotland later.

SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N England: dry but rather cloudy at first; sunny periods developing but cloud increasing again in evening. Wind moderate southeasterly, becoming fresh southwesterly. Very warm. Max 25C (77F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England: patchy drizzle at first, becoming mainly dry and bright, but patchy rain for a time later. Wind moderate to fresh, becoming strong.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Glasgow, 18C; 22C (72F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Asquith, Dumfries, 0.7in; highest rain rate: Glasgow, 9.1in.

AHEAD

For the latest AA traffic and road conditions, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Location	SE traffic	SW traffic
Area within M25	731	732
South Herts/Bucks/Beds/Essex	733	734
North Herts/Beds/Bucks/Essex	735	736
National motorways	737	738
West Country	739	740
Wales	741	742
Midlands	743	744
East Anglia	745	746
North-west England	747	748
North-east England	749	750
Scotland	751	752
Northern Ireland & Stranmillis	753	754
N Ireland	755	756

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

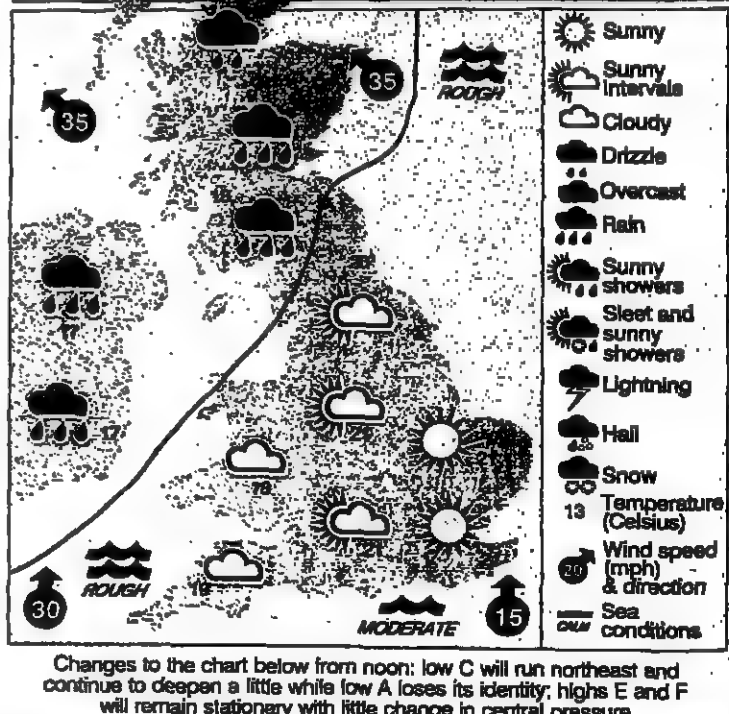
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=light; c=cloud; d=drizzle; e=clear; f=rain; g=rain; h=heavy rain; i=ice; j=thunder; k=thunderstorm; l=lightning; m=moderate; n=moderate to heavy; o=overcast; p=partly cloudy; q=partly overcast; r=rain; s=sunny; t=thunder; u=thunderstorm; v=very heavy rain; w=wind; x=windy; y=windy with rain; z=windy with sun.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Thunder
London	18	10	10	0.1	0
Edinburgh	15	15	10	0.1	0
Glasgow	14	15	10	0.1	0
Belfast	13	15	10	0.1	0
Cardiff	16	10	10	0.1	0
Exeter	17	10	10	0.1	0
Manchester	18	10	10	0.1	0
Newcastle	19	10	10	0.1	0
Nottingham	18	10	10	0.1	0
Sheffield	18	10	10	0.1	0
Sunderland	19	10	10	0.1	0
Swansea	17	10	10	0.1	0
Torquay	18	10	10	0.1	0
Wrexham	16	10	10	0.1	0
Wynnefryn	17	10	10	0.1	0

ABROAD

Algeria 21 70 f; Ankara 20 70 f; Athens 20 70 f; Beijing 20 70 f; Bern 20 70 f; Bogota 20 70 f; Buenos Aires 20 70 f; Calcutta 20 70 f; Cape Town 20 70 f; Caracas 20 70 f; Chicago 20 70 f; Colombo 20 70 f; Copenhagen 20 70 f; Dallas 20 70 f; Delhi 20 70 f; Denver 20 70 f; Dhaka 20 70 f; Doha 20 70 f; Dublin 20 70 f; Frankfurt 20 70 f; Geneva 20 70 f; Hanoi 20 70 f; Harare 20 70 f; Hong Kong 20 70 f; Houston 20 70 f; Istanbul 20 70 f; Jakarta 20 70 f; Johannesburg 20 70 f; Kuala Lumpur 20 70 f; London 20 70 f; Los Angeles 20 70 f; Luxembourg 20 70 f; Madrid 20 70 f; Manila 20 70 f; Mexico City 20 70 f; Miami 20 70 f; Moscow 20 70 f; Mumbai 20 70 f; New York 20 70 f; Ottawa 20 70 f; Paris 20 70 f; Perth 20 70 f; Rome 20 70 f; San Francisco 20 70 f; Singapore 20 70 f; Stockholm 20 70 f; Sydney 20 70 f; Taipei 20 70 f; Tel Aviv 20 70 f; Tokyo 20 70 f; Toronto 20 70 f; Vancouver 20 70 f; Warsaw 20 70 f; Wellington 20 70 f; Zurich 20 70 f.

CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM NOON: LOW C WILL RUN NORTHEAST AND CONTINUE TO DEEPEN A LITTLE WHILE LOW A LOSES ITS IDENTITY; HIGHS E AND F WILL REMAIN STATIONARY WITH LITTLE CHANGE IN CENTRAL PRESSURE



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	PM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11:40	6:11	11:26	6:11	11:26
Aberdeen	11:17	3:18	11:48	3:18	11:48
Aberystwyth	4:04	11:7	5:15	12:1	5:15
Belfast	4:28	10:6	5:11	10:6	5:11
Cardiff	3:20	4:29	3:52	5:0	3:52
Dover	8:49	6:1	9:06	6:1	9:06
Dublin (N Wall)	9:27	3:7	9:45	3:8	9:45
Falmouth	10:10	4:9	3:39	4:7	3:39
Glasgow	10:10	2:1	11:03	2:1	11:03
Harwich	9:32	3:7	9:55	3:7	9:55
Hayhead	9:05	5:1	8:35	5:2	8:35
Hull (Albert D)	4:02	6:17	4:16	6:6	4:16
Inverness	3:31	8:3	4:02	8:5	4:02
King's Lynn	4:14	5:7	4:29	5:8	4:29

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises	Sun sets	London 9:06 pm to 4:50 am	Bristol 9:16 pm to 4:50 am	Edinburgh 9:45 pm to 4:36 am	Manchester 9:26 pm to 4:47 am	Penzance 9:21 pm to 5:18 am
4:51 am	9:06 pm					
Mean sun	Mean rise					
3:55 am	9:11 pm					



JANET BUSH 29

The real economic story is hidden in the small print



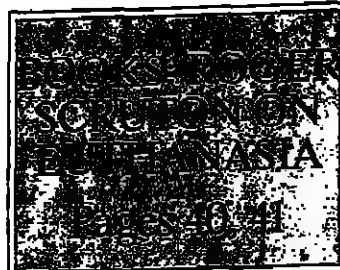
ARTS 37-39

Robert Lepage sets his sights on the silver screen



SPORT 42-48

Woodruff ends Agassi's hopes in French Open



THE TIMES

2

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MAY 30 1996

Two-way race to secure right to screen Premiership live

By Jason Nisse

THE battle over who will have the rights to televise FA Carling Premiership League football live is due to be decided next week, with bidders told to offer a minimum of £150 million a year.

Only two bidders are expected to make offers — British Sky Broadcasting, which has the current contract worth £304 million over five years, and a joint offer from Mirror Group and Carlton Communications.

Other potential offers from a joint Pearson/MAL consortium and Kirch, the German group, have fallen by the wayside during talks with Rick Parry, chief executive

of the Premiership League, over the past few months.

The two remaining bidders have been asked to make a final presentation to the chairman of the 20 football clubs in the Premiership League at a two-day meeting to be held in Coventry at the end of next week.

The bidders have been told that it is likely that a final decision on the new contract, which will run from the start of the 1997/98 season, will be made at the meeting. "In TV terms it will be the cup final," said one Premiership chairman. "The bids have to be in excess of £150 million a year even to get to the negotiating table."

The contract will be for the rights to carry

live games on either satellite or cable. A separate contract to carry a highlights programme on either BBC or ITV will be negotiated once the first deal is signed.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is the favourite to win back the contract. It is hoping to secure a new five-year contract, but the larger Premiership clubs want no more than a two- or three-year deal.

BSkyB has negotiated the right to match any other bid. But league sources said that this may not be allowed by the European Commission, which has told the Premiership League that the clause may breach European competition law.

The Mirror/Carlton bid will be well in excess of £150 million a year. Kelvin MacKenzie, head of Mirror's TV division, is currently putting the finishing touches to the offer, and has to decide whether to make it for two or three years. If successful, Mirror and Carlton will join forces to launch a sports channel to be run on cable TV. They have had talks with other programme makers, including Pearson, about supplying programming for the channel.

Calculations by Neil Junor, who is media analyst at NatWest Markets, show that a new sports cable channel charging just £8.25 a month would produce revenues of more

than £150 million a year within 12 months of being launched. If the channel was also carried on satellite, the income in the first year alone could be in excess of £250 million.

Mr Junor believes the Mirror/Carlton consortium could probably afford to bid in the region of £200 million a year for the rights to screen Premiership League football live and still make a sizeable profit.

With the advent of digital TV it is expected that leading clubs such as Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool will set up their own cable channels and sell television coverage of their matches on a pay-per-view basis. The new contract will cover the period until that level of service is feasible.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3775.7	(+15.5)
Yield	4.0%	
FT-SE All share	1896.29	(+8.4)
Nikkei	22021.50	(+76.87)
New York		
Dow Jones	8703.39	(-6.28)
S&P Composite	672.57	(+0.34)
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	6.87%	(6.87%)
Yield		
5-year Interbank	8.0%	(8.0%)
Libor 3-month	10.5%	(10.5%)
London		
New York	1.8213*	(1.8138)
London	1.8188	(1.8128)
DM	1.8477	(1.8415)
FR	1.8444	(1.8383)
SP	1.9329	(1.9271)
Yen	165.21	(164.28)
£/¥	65.4	(65.1)
Tokyo close	¥108.90	
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$18.15	(\$18.50)
London close	£391.25	(\$392.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Stricken names call for Lloyd's pension

By Sarah Bagnall

LOYD'S OF LONDON is under pressure to provide its hardest hit names with an annual "pension" as part of its multi-billion settlement offer to 34,000 names.

The call for further help is driven by concerns that thousands of names will be financially ruined if they accept the insurance market's settlement offer.

Lloyd's is in the process of a radical restructuring plan, involving names paying a fee to offload all their future liabilities as well as losing their Lloyd's deposits. For an estimated 6,000 names the bill they will receive from Lloyd's will leave them with little or no assets and they will have little remaining income. As a result Lloyd's has offered £200 million of extra assistance.

However, this so-called tranche 4 of debt credits will not resolve many names' problems. In thousands of cases their Lloyd's deposits are in the form of bank guarantees against their homes and the loss of their Lloyd's deposits would in normal circumstances mean the loss of their homes.

In a bid to overcome this Lloyd's is offering names the chance to take out a special mortgage, but this still leaves names with the problem of how to fund the interest payments.

In a letter to names Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, wrote: "This is a particularly hard fate for elderly names who face an old age of penury and deprivation."

As a result, Lloyd's is being lobbied hard by numerous names' representatives, including the Association of Lloyd's Members and the Peltrin Names Association and Gooda Walker Action Group, to provide an annual income to ruined names.

Damon de Laszlo, chairman of the Peltrin Names Association, said: "There are many names who have borrowed to pay their losses and will be left with these debts after the settlement offer. They need financial help."

The idea is that ruined names will receive regular

cash payments that provide a minimum reasonable standard of living. Under the now defunct Hardship programme, Lloyd's own bankruptcy scheme, a couple were entitled to £17,500 a year after the payment of major outgoings, such as mortgage payments.

Lloyd's yesterday said it was in favour of the idea but was concerned about the potential cost and how to fund the payments.

Action group chairmen are urging names to apply for the tranche 4 debt credits so Lloyd's can use the applications to assess the magnitude of the income support needed. Mr Deeny said: "Such income support would be means tested and would only be available to those who have supplied the information required in the past by the Hardship Committee or that required for tranche 4 applications."

So far more than 3,800 names have applied for tranche 4 debt credits but about 2,500 who Lloyd's believes are eligible for assistance have failed to apply. The lack of response is thought to be due to the deep mistrust in which Lloyd's is held by many names. Some members of the society are wary about revealing financial details in case Lloyd's uses the information against them if the settlement offer founders. Lloyd's has tried to reassure names that the information is for the sole purpose of the settlement process.

Lloyd's intends to send out fresh indicative statements to names at the end of June, followed in early July by final statements which will detail how much each name has to pay Lloyd's. But it is unlikely that names will vote on whether to accept the offer at the market's annual meeting on July 15. Instead the 34-odd action groups will hold extraordinary meetings as soon as is practicable after the final statements are sent to names. It is after these meetings, in mid to late July, that names are expected to make their individual vote on whether to accept the offer.



Bob Howells, left, chairman of LTS Rail, and Godfrey Burley, Prism's chairman, who saw his company's shares double in value on AIM

PRISM RAIL, which runs the London-Tilbury-Southend rail line, previously dubbed by many long-suffering passengers as the "misery line", made anything but a miserable market debut. The shares steamed ahead to more than double on their first day of trading on the Alternative Investment Market (Philip Pangalos writes).

Investors in the company, the UK's first publicly-quoted train operator since national-

Prism float reflects confidence

isation at the end of 1947, saw Prism's oversubscribed shares surge to a healthy premium from the start of trading. The shares ended their first day at 205p, compared with a 100p flotation price, and put in the shade the premium enjoyed by Rail-track investors.

Dealings in the company's

13 million ordinary shares on AIM came after a private placing of eight million new ordinary shares at 100p, which raised £8 million. The placing was to enable the company to complete the acquisition of the franchise for LTS Rail, which operates the London-Tilbury-Southend line, and to provide working

capital and allow for much-needed investment.

Investors instantly warmed to Prism, which is chaired by Godfrey Burley, taking the view that the group has an experienced management team that stands a good chance of winning further routes.

Prism, which has a 15-year

franchise to run the London-Tilbury-Southend line, aspires to be a major rail player and makes no secret of wanting to bid for other franchises. The company has said that it will consider bidding for the 16 remaining franchises.

It also proposes to spend at least £14 million on station improvements and plans to build a new station at West Ham to provide a new interchange on the London Underground's District Line.

Pinstripe ostrich company closes

By Karen Zagor

THE Pinstripe Farming Company yesterday filed for voluntary liquidation just days after the Department of Trade and Industry started proceedings in the High Court to have the company wound up.

In the wake of the beef scare, thousands of investors have poured tens of millions of pounds into ostrich investment schemes in the hope that ostrich meat would become the favoured alternative. Some ostrich schemes have promised annual returns of up to 70 per cent, but with no evidence to substantiate these figures.

Pinstripe has chosen its own liquidator, Stephen Conn & Company in Manchester, but the DTI will continue its petition process and ask the court to appoint the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator. The same firm is acting

as liquidator for World Ostrich Farms, which collapsed at the end of April in the middle of an investigation by the Securities and Investment Board (SIB). The SIB is now trying to recover money from World Ostrich Farms, regarding the scheme as a collective investment, which, as such, falls under its regulatory remit.

The SIB had investigated Pinstripe before passing the papers on to the DTI. A similar move led to the DTI filing a winding-up petition against the Ostrich Farming Corporation. The case is now being fought, in the courts. OFC is also the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation. Both Pinstripe and the OFC escaped SIB's regulatory arm by selling birds rather than shares in a company.

Pru scheme survives dissent

By Jason Nisse

THE Prudential Corporation, which has over £30 billion invested in the UK stock market, was given a bloody nose by its shareholders yesterday when over 10 per cent of them voted against its new executive share incentive scheme.

The revolt was led by Standard Life, the giant Scottish mutual insurer with a 2.65 per cent stake. Its opposition to the scheme was revealed in *The Times* yesterday.

At the count 69.5 million shares, representing 10.4 per cent of the vote, were cast against the motion to approve the scheme, which pays out to directors if the Prudential performs better than the sixth-best company in the FT-SE 100 index over three years.

Water bid places 1,000 jobs at risk

By Christine Buckley

MORE THAN 1,000 jobs are likely to go in the South of England if Southern Electric wins a bid for Southern Water.

The regional electricity company yesterday launched a £1.56 billion rival offer to the £1.56 billion hostile approach made on Tuesday by ScottishPower.

The board of Southern Water, whose four main members will net £1.3 million from share options and keep their jobs in an enlarged organisation, have recommended the deal. Salary increases for the board members are expected as new roles have been created in the revamped board structure.

Southern Electric yesterday revealed pre-tax profits of £293.9 million, up 16.6 per cent on the previous year. Its total dividend rises 25 per cent to 38.3p.

£45 million a year and that the combined staff numbers of about 6,100 would shrink to just over 5,000.

Pressure will now be on for a higher offer from ScottishPower, the integrated generation and supply business that last year bought Manweb, the English regional company, for £1.1 billion.

Southern Electric yesterday bought 10 per cent of Southern Water's shares for £156 million in a morning swoop on the market. Its bid is offering £10.13p a share in cash and new shares, and £9.75p a share in a cash deal. Southern Water's shares jumped 46p to 987p on the new bid.

Southern Electric revealed pre-tax profits of £293.9 million, up 16.6 per cent on the previous year. Its total dividend rises 25 per cent to 38.3p.

Britain is making a 'striking comeback'

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is improving its place in the global competitiveness league table, according to a report published today. The World Economic Forum (WEF) ranks Britain 15th out of 49 countries that together account for 94 per cent of world economic output. The WEF says the UK has made a "striking comeback" over the past year.

Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, the USA and Luxembourg fill the first five places, with India, Hungary, Venezuela, Brazil and Russia at the bottom. Japan and Germany are ranked 13th and 22nd respectively, with France 23rd and Italy 41st.

Britain scores well in terms of financial depth and ease of hiring and firing, but badly over education and training. In investment it is second to bottom.

The report says Anglo-Saxon economies largely outrank those in the rest of the EU, and that countries such as the USA and Britain have definitely improved their competitiveness — though it warns that as a result, "job insecurity and income inequality are becoming very serious concerns."

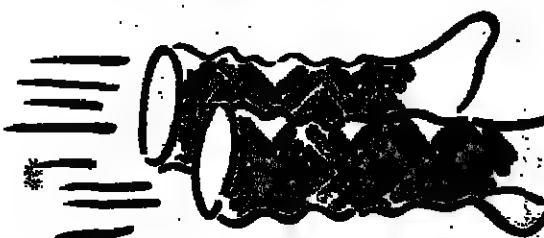
The WEF's findings contrast sharply with a forthcoming similar report on competitiveness from the International Institute for Management Development, preliminary details of which were released earlier this week. The IMD's report said Britain has slipped from 15th to 19th place in its world competitiveness league.

Economic View, page 29

MORSE



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Farmers to harvest shares from Dairy Crest flotation

BY PAUL DURMAN

ABOUT 27,000 dairy farmers will receive shares and cash worth an average of £7,500 when Dairy Crest, the milk and cheese company, is floated on the stock market this summer.

The farmers own Dairy Crest via the Residuary Milk Marketing Board (RMMB), a vestige of the dairy industry as it existed before deregulation in 1994.

Farmers will be offered about £66 million in cash as a repayment of the money Dairy Crest provided to set up Milk Marque, the body that has taken over the sale of the bulk of the UK's milk production. Most farmers will also receive shares in the company, which is expected to command a market value of £200 million.

The RMMB is pushing ahead with the flotation in spite of receiving a number of offers to buy Dairy Crest or parts of it. Sir Derek Andrews, the RMMB's chairman, said the board judged that dairy farmers wanted Dairy Crest to remain as a "third force" in the industry alongside Northern Foods and Unigate.

Dairy Crest dismissed fears about a threat from BSE, or mad cow disease. John Houlston, chief executive, said: "There's not the slightest indication anywhere that there's any connection between milk and BSE."

Even if the Government ends up culling many more dairy cows than it currently proposes, the company believes any impact on its profits will be modest. Mr Houlston said Dairy Crest would move to making more high-margin

products, such as mature cheddar.

The company also reported an 11 per cent increase in operating profits to £35.4 million for the year to March 31. The absence of restructuring costs meant that this produced a 69 per cent boost in pre-tax profits to £37.4 million. Annual sales were £739.6 million.

Although Dairy Crest faces the industry-wide problem of sharply declining doorstep deliveries and powerful customers in the shape of the supermarkets, it hopes to concentrate on branded goods with higher profit margins. Clover spreads, Friji milk shakes, mature cheddars and other "value-added" products represent about 40 per cent of the £350 million a year consumer foods arm of the business.

Dairy Crest, a strong cash generator, has no debt and will not raise further funds when it comes to the market. New shares will be issued to pay off the £66 million due to farmers. The timetable for the flotation has still to be finalised.

Since 1990, the company has cut staff numbers from 12,500 to 3,400, and reduced the number of its plants from 32 to 11. It has closed its Whitland creamery and, last November, bought Mendip Foods to form the UK's biggest mature cheddar business.

Dairy Crest is being advised by Lazards and by Hoare Govett as brokers. The RMMB is advised by Schroders.



Mike Dowdall, left, Dairy Crest's chairman, and John Houlston reported higher profits

Pennington, page 27

Anglian to invest customer rebates

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

WATER customer rebates will not be offered in East Anglia for the foreseeable future after a poor response and some hostility from households.

Alan Smith, managing director of Anglian Water, which last year increased pre-tax profits 3.7 per cent to £238.6 million, said: "People don't want to £6 a year or so. In fact they think it's derisory. We've found they would much rather see the money spent on improvements."

Anglian is to put an extra £17 million into customer service improvements, making £32 million for the year. It announced a dividend increase of 15.4 per cent, taking the total to 30p (25p).

It is also planning to increase cost savings to £40 million a year by 1998. Last year it saved £20 million through extra efficiencies. Some of the increased savings will come from job reductions, but the company is not indicating how many positions will be lost.

Anglian is looking overseas for expansion. Last year its operations in the Americas, Europe and Asia produced an operating loss of £5.7 million. In the previous year the loss was £6.3 million.

With £6 million a year spent on marketing, Mr Smith said it would be a few years before the overseas division would break even. "It is a difficult road but it is important to remain in it," he said. The final dividend of 21.1p is payable October 1.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gilts auction boost by cash-rich institutions

THE Treasury breathed a sigh of relief yesterday as demand at the second big gilts auction of the year exceeded market expectations. Pension funds and life insurers were particularly large buyers as cash-rich institutions sought to find a home for their money. The institutions have particularly high liquidity at the moment and tend to favour long-term gilts which are a good match for long-term liabilities.

But economists said political uncertainty before the next election was likely to cast a cloud over the gilt-edged market in the next few months. The Bank of England said that the £3 billion 8 per cent gilt 2021 auction was covered two times. The average price accepted was 90½, below the pre-bid close of 90½½, after last minute pressure for the price to cheapen. The yield fell two basis points and the price fell ½p. The average yield was 8.33 per cent.

KHD fraud complaint

KLOECKNER-HUMBOLDT-DEUTZ, the troubled German engineering firm, has filed a complaint against 15 people, including the deputy chairman, in a case of fraud that could cost the company DM650 million, prosecutors said yesterday. That is twice as high as KHD's total equity, making it difficult for Deutsche Bank, its main shareholder, to step in with financial assistance. Regine Appenrodt, the Cologne public prosecutor, said prosecutors were now investigating top KHD employees on suspicion of fraud and embezzlement. Three directors have been suspended.

MCA boosts Seagram

SEAGRAM, the wine and spirits group that last year bought MCA, the Hollywood studio, yesterday reported operating earnings of \$304 million, up 85 per cent, on revenues of \$2.5 billion in the quarter to April 30. The gain was entirely due to the inclusion of MCA, whose operating profits in the period were \$108 million, down 17 per cent. Profits from the core beverage division fell 9 per cent to \$148 million because of the soft market in North America. Seagram that said MCA's results were weaker because of significant investment spending in its music and recreation divisions.

DY Davies halts at 11p

SHARES in DY Davies, the troubled architectural services company, were suspended at 11p yesterday after directors asked NatWest, the principal bank, to appoint an administrative receiver. In April a number of subsidiaries of DY Davies were put into creditors' voluntary liquidation in an effort to protect other parts of the business but trading has continued to be difficult. The company lost £326,000 before tax in its last full financial year. Interim results, published in February, showed that half-year losses had risen to more than £1 million.

Texas chairman dies

JERRY JUNKINS, chairman of Texas Instruments, the American computer manufacturer, died yesterday of a heart attack during a business trip to Europe. Mr Junkins, 58, joined TI in 1959 and became president and chief executive officer in 1985 and chairman in 1988. The company said vice chairman Bill Mitchell and Pat Weber would oversee day-to-day operations for the near future. Mr Junkins was on the board of directors of Caterpillar Incorporated, Procter & Gamble and 3M. Trading in Texas shares was suspended after news of his death.

Rolls-Royce 'stronger'

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aero-engines to industrial power group, is continuing to strengthen its competitive position, Sir Ralph Robins, the chairman, told the annual meeting yesterday. Civil aviation was a long-term growth industry and the market was showing signs of recovery, while the defence aerospace business looked more stable, he said. Sir Ralph said 1995 had been a year of "significant progress" but said the group had to sustain the rate of progress to secure its position as an international leader in power systems. Rolls-Royce shares eased ½p to 228½p.

Carlisle to refocus

CARLISLE GROUP, the property investment company, said it is set to refocus on the nursing home sector with the appointment of Dev Pritchard, founder of Takara, the nursing home company, as joint chief executive. Mr Pritchard has agreed to invest up to £20.6 million in the company for new shares at 10.57p each. The company also announced a free bonus share on a one-for-four basis. Carlisle said year-end losses of £4.06 million were due to discontinued activities and write-downs. Losses were 2.6p a share, against earnings of 1.2p. There is again no dividend.

Healthy rise in Japanese output

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

JAPAN announced a healthy increase in industrial output, reinforcing the view that a gradual economic recovery is continuing. But economists said the recovery had not gained sufficient momentum for Japan to alter its five-year policy of low interest rates.

The Trade Ministry reported that Japanese firms increased production by a preliminary 3.9 per cent in

April on the previous month, when the figure dipped 6.0 per cent.

Robust output of personal computers and cellular phones led the growth in April, but the ministry said many companies still held high excess stocks. The output data was largely as expected.

Tokyo financial markets shrugged off the news. There was moderate selling of Japanese government bonds but this soon petered out. Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute, said: "Japan's industrial production is still in a good shape, but the speed of the recovery is slow... we have to say that we cannot see any strong economic expansion yet."

Life added that the economy would continue to recover, at least until the summer, supported by government stimulus packages. "But after this autumn, there is no guarantee that the economic recovery will continue".

The Bank of Japan has for the past five years adopted an easy monetary policy to support the economy, but financial market participants have speculated that it could start tightening its grip once the economy shows true strength.

Freightliner is sold to buyout

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FREIGHTLINER, British Rail's £80 million a year container freight subsidiary, has been sold to a management buyout consortium backed by 3i and Electra Fleming, the venture capital groups.

The deal was secured after the Government agreed to inject £75 million into the loss-making company over five years to cover track access charges.

Freightliner operates from main deep sea ports such as Felixstowe, Southampton and Tilbury and carries about 20 per cent of Britain's containerised freight.

The company's 1,000 wagons carry freight containers to inland terminals, where they are collected by a fleet of 240 lorries.

David Rutherford, the managing director, who led the buyout team, said: "We are delighted to have won the opportunity of developing Freightliner into a first-class business."

"We believe it has a great future and we have ambitious plans in co-operation with our

customers and the ports community to increase volumes of freight on rail by over 50 per cent over the next few years."

The sale means that all but one of British Rail's freight operations have now been privatised. The exception is Rail Freight Distribution, the heavily loss-making international freight business.

The company operates freight trains through the Channel Tunnel and is believed to lose about £60 million a year.



Rutherford: expansion plans

Senior partner denies backing Opposition

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

KPMG, the accountancy firm, was at odds with the Labour Party again last night after Colin Sharman, its UK senior partner, denied backing the Opposition in an article published this month.

Tensions arose between KPMG and Labour last month when Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, accused several accountancy firms of giving clients misleading advice over the party's tax policies. KPMG cancelled a series of client seminars that it said had been misrepresented in the press. Writing in the

latest edition of *Renewal*, a Labour-supporting journal, Mr Sharman says Labour should be taken seriously by British business and backs much of Tony Blair's modernising reforms. He argues that business should not necessarily believe that only one party can govern Britain.

"From the leader of the party downwards, Labour politicians seem eager to listen, argue, present their policies and, crucially, seek professional advice," he says. "That must be welcome whatever political stance you take."

He says Tony Blair is master of his own party in a way that previous Labour leaders were not and has used that

strength to drive a policy agenda in tune with the latter part of the 20th century. "Business is now planning for the prospect of a government led by Blair and Brown rather than Major and Clarke in the next year."

Labour sources said last night that the article clearly showed that their message was getting across to business.

However, Mr Sharman denied that he was trying to repair relations with Labour. The article, he said, had been written and submitted in January, long before the dispute broke out. "I set out to produce a reasoned, balanced assessment," he said.

TOURIST RATES

	Daily	Rank
Australia \$	2.00	1.84
Austria Sch	17.47	15.97
Belgium Fr	51.11	46.81
Canada \$	2.182	2.032
Cyprus Cyp	0.754	0.686
Denmark Kr	9.82	8.82
Finland Fmk	2.777	2.712
France Fr	6.55	7.70
Germany Dm	2.50	2.28
Greece Dr	385	380
Hong Kong \$	15.28	11.38
Ireland P	1.02	0.84
Israel Shk	5.51	4.72
Italy Lit	864	2263
Japan Yen	178.80	162.80
Malta	0.391	0.536
Netherlands Gld	2.772	2.542
New Zealand \$	2.35	2.14
Norway Kr	15.35	8.75
Portugal Esc	251.50	223.00
S Africa R	7.22	6.42
Spain Ptas	202.00	189.00
Sweden Kr	10.68	10.16
Switzerland Fr	2.08	1.88
Turkey Lira	122.98	114.88
USA \$	1.813	1.483

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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□ Why water bid taps are turned on □ Getting on board the milk float □ Bottom line on UK competitiveness

Transparent attractions

WATER was supposed to be the least attractive utility for predators. The regional companies were heavily regulated, and by their very nature monopolies with little scope to raise market share. Worst of all, they had to invest so much in improvements that borrowings went up each year. By contrast, telecommunications had huge potential to expand, while electricity had cash spilling out of its pockets.

As the third of ten water and sewerage groups prepares to lose its independence, this view looks outdated. The latest 15 per cent dividend rise from Anglian Water helps to explain why. Low risk plus above-average returns does not need a salesman to sell it.

The original case for water companies was simple. Since they had to invest more than £30 billion to clean up water, sewage and beaches, they had to be allowed a decent return to attract the necessary funds. The sheer size of the financing added to the attraction. On the long view taken by the regulator, customers had to pay for a lot of the investment up front, via the companies' profits, to avoid too great a strain on borrowing. Yet the water companies were entitled to earn a return on this as

well as investment they financed. Unless managers made a mess of things, for instance by failing to control their ambitious investment programmes, rising real dividends were virtually guaranteed. Until Yorkshire got its shower curtains in a twist last year, the only substantive complaints were about the real price increases allowed under the regime to fund investment.

Like Southern, Anglian continues to cut costs by more than the regulator required and is going to need to invest heavily for many years ahead. Even the meanest regulator could not reasonably put its shareholders on a British Gas-style starvation diet. It will also continue to enjoy hefty tax allowances.

The market, taking a far shorter view than the regulator, sees businesses that can stand far more borrowing than scheduled. Anglian, Welsh and others have been chivvied by City fund managers to deal out special dividends, buybacks or handouts of preference shares. The

combination of investment with guaranteed returns and tax allowances makes water companies a good good financial fit for any frustrated, cash-generating electricity company — or a baker or a candlestick maker, for that matter.

Whether water or electricity does the taking over is largely a matter of relative size. The multi-utility can be local, maximising cost savings, or cross-country, to spread the base for cross-selling other utility services. Either way, employees pay the costs.

Down on the farm

IT IS a scheme made for Brian Aldridge, a man well versed at picking his way through tortuous legislation in search of a money-making idea, but it is going to baffle the Grundy household. This is a shame, because the sums involved, between £5,000 and £10,000 per farmer, would mean more to the



Grundys of this world than any of the prosperous Archer clan.

The scheme in question is the flotation of Dairy Crest, the dairy products arm of the old Milk Marketing Board, after several false starts. This will bring to 28,000 farmers this unlooked-for bonus — provided they can understand the impenetrable literature arriving through their doors explaining it all.

The unwinding of the old MMB, a co-operative that has collected milk since the 1930s, was always going to be complicated. The MMB was effectively segmented in 1994 into Milk Marque, which continues

to collect from most farmers, and Dairy Crest, selling that milk and other products on to the supermarkets and with a share of the declining doorstep market.

As a co-operative, the MMB was owned by the farmers who had paid it a levy over the years, and the Dairy Crest flotation this summer is a way of ensuring that debt, now standing at £66 million, is repaid. According to their standing with the residuary body now handling the MMB's affairs, they will get shares, cash, or a mix of both.

Full details are not yet worked out, but institutions will be pulled in to hold 25 to 30 per cent of the equity. The residuary body is convinced that small farmers want Dairy Crest to remain independent, as a counterweight to the more powerful Unigate and Northern Foods owned Express Dairies. But Dairy Crest has attracted the interest of potential purchasers in the past, and a float would clean up the business neatly by stripping out those residual liabilities owed to

the farmers and leaving it open to a straight takeover bid. The farmers' loyalties might then be tested.

Middling through

BEHIND the arguments over the report on international competitiveness from the World Economic Forum lie some depressing home truths.

Competitiveness specialists — the subject has now inevitably spawned a mini-industry all of its own to analyse it — will argue about the relative methodology of that report and a similar one from the International Institute for Management Development earlier this week that showed Britain overtaken economically by Finland and Chile.

Today's findings from the WEF are, at least, less gloomy than that. But even so, in table after table, chart after chart, the WEF report shows that the UK's performance as deeply mediocre.

in anything from per capita GDP to the cost of domestic air travel, from inflation to home security.

The worst judgment is on investment. Out of 49 countries, Britain ranks second from bottom (only Sweden is worse) on gross domestic investment, and third from bottom on gross national savings. Business leaders and politicians fret endlessly about the investment gap, insisting that investment is the central key to future economic growth. If so, then the WEF's findings suggest Britain will occupy a middling, mediocre world ranking for many years yet.

Hopes derailed

FBW of the commuters on the London-Tilbury-Southend "Mystery Line" managed to double their money yesterday. This was left to the 22 institutions that backed its operator, Prism Rail, before an AIM float via a typical placing that left normal investors, including those commuters, scratching around in the aftermarket. When rail privatisation was initially mooted much was made of the chances to sell to enthusiasts and assorted anoraks, but the latter seem to have been left out in favour of the usual City suspects. A pity.

Carlton hints at organic growth

By ERIC REGULY

CARLTON Communications hinted strongly yesterday that it intends to grow organically and is unlikely to become a predator once new legislation easing media ownership takes effect later this year.

The comments came as Carlton announced a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £143 million, in the half year to March 31. The better than expected figure led to increased forecasts for full-year profits.

Carlton's conservative stance suggests that it will not bid for HTV, the ITV company in the West of England and Wales, at the current market prices. The expectation of a free-for-all once the Broadcasting Bill is passed has pushed up the share prices of HTV and other small ITV companies in recent months. Carlton, which holds the ITV licences for the Midlands and London on week-

days, said that "many of our most tangible opportunities lie within our existing businesses, rather than beyond them".

Some analysts, however, said that Carlton probably intends to buy an additional ITV franchise and may have been simply "talking down the market" in the hopes that shares prices will fall.

HTV's other potential suitors are MAI, the financial services and media group that recently merged with United News & Media, and Granada. HTV shares lost 1p to 371p.

Carlton would not say whether its organic growth plans include buying TV sports rights. The FA Carling Premiership rights, the richest prize in TV sport, come on the market in June. A partnership formed by Carlton and Mirror Group is expected to bid against BSkyB, the satellite

broadcaster which is 40 per cent owned by News International, the owner of The Times, for the rights between 1997 and 2003.

Carlton's profits rise was almost entirely due to better performance from its non-broadcasting activities. Operating profits from broadcast television was flat at £61 million. Operating profits from video production and distribution were up 13 per cent to £37.1 million, while film and TV services gained 33 per cent to £26.3 million.

Overall operating profits were £140 million, up 14 per cent, on turnover that rose 6 per cent to £847.8 million. Earnings per share were 15.3p against 12.7p. The interim dividend, payable on August 23, rises 17.5 per cent to 4.51p.

Times, page 28

Betterware lifted by special payout

By PHILIP FANGALOS

SHARES in Betterware jumped 6½p to 98½p after the door-to-door housewares retailer accompanied a recovery in full-year profits with plans to return some of its £10.3 million net cash pile through a 2.6p special dividend.

Organic growth helped Betterware to report pre-tax profits of £9.29 million in the 53-week period to March 2, compared with £1.01 million last time. Profits were boosted by a £1.1 million exceptional gain relating to VAT overpaid in earlier years, compared with an exceptional loss of £3.5 million last time. Turnover from the core direct-selling business grew by 10 per cent to £55 million, with the UK up 7 per cent and overseas operations ahead 39 per cent.

Andrew Cohen, chairman, expects overseas operations to grow from about 10 per cent of group turnover to more than 50 per cent within five to seven years. He said: "The momen-



Andrew Cohen: optimistic

turn of last year has continued ... with the group trading around 10 per cent ahead of the previous year. We've had a very strong first quarter and the initiatives we took last year are bearing fruit."

There is a maintained final dividend of 1.75p, payable on July 22, giving an increased total of 5.2p (2.6p). Earnings before one-offs rose 50 per cent to 5.2p (3.5p) a share.

Hiscox in Economic takeover

HISCOX Dedicated Insurance Fund is acquiring Economic Insurance, the regional insurance company, for £30.07 million.

The company also intends to acquire the 75 per cent of Hiscox Holdings it does not already own for £33.1 million.

The two deals will be funded partly by a £54.6 million open offer. Investors are offered one new share for each share held at 115p. Existing shares were unchanged at 138p.

The enlarged group, to be renamed Hiscox plc, will comprise of an insurance company with more than £500 million of gross written premiums and 370 staff. Robert Hiscox, chairman of Hiscox Holdings and a director of Hiscox Dedicated, said: "We will be able to take advantage of opportunities in the Lloyd's market and the company market."

Granada rejects £1bn Forte offer

By ERIC REGULY

SIR ROCCO FORTE's effort to buy back the hotel chains he lost in his battle with Granada failed yesterday when Granada rejected his offer.

Sir Rocco, the former chief executive of the Forte hotels and restaurants group, last week offered about £1 billion for some of the hotels in the Exclusive chain and most of the hotels in the Meridien chain. During the takeover battle, Forte valued all the properties in both groups at about £1.6 billion.

Granada, whose chief executive is Gerry Robinson, announced last week that it would sell the Exclusive hotels individually or in small groups, but would keep the Meridien because it had considerable potential for profit improvement.

The Exclusives include Brown's and the Hyde Park in London and the Eden in Rome. The 85 Meridien hotels are a notch below the

Exclusives and are spread all over the world.

Sir Rocco said he did not want to buy the Exclusives alone and made an unsolicited offer for both chains, with the exception of some hotels. It is known that he was not interested in buying the Grosvenor House hotel in London, which accounts for about one-quarter of the value of the Exclusive chain, or the George V in Paris, which requires substantial improvements.

He said: "We secured substantial debt and equity funding to make our bid, and I am sorry that Granada has decided not to follow up on what we consider to be a good offer."

It does not appear that Sir Rocco will increase his offer. He said he will look for other opportunities in the hotels and leisure sector. With funding already in place from JP Morgan, Citicorp and others, he may be able to move quickly.

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Well-travelled messenger

DAVID BURNSIDE'S muddy shoes have been filled at last, by 41-year-old Kevin Murray. As the new voice of British Airways, the current director of corporate affairs for AEA Technology has certainly travelled. Born in Zimbabwe and brought up in Zambia, Murray climbed his way to become air correspondent for *The Star*, Johannesburg, before moving into PR.

The news came as a surprise to BA staff, not least Peter Jones, acting director of public affairs for more than six months, who was on holiday yesterday. Mr Jones will, however, stay on board, reporting to Mr Murray.

No impediment

THE star turn at yesterday's Prudential AGM was Bernard Harris, the shareholder who stood up to ask: "In the light of recent legislation in Hawaii to allow marriages between people of the same sex... has the board of the Prudential put in any consideration to amending its policies to cover marriages between husband and husband, or wife and wife?" Sir Martin Jacob, Pru chairman, fixed him with a stare. "To be honest, on the question of whether we have given any consideration to this issue, the answer is no. But let me assure you, I will consider it."



"It's no longer known as the misery line"

Dry dale woe

YORKSHIRE'S tourism industry is the latest victim of Yorkshire Water's mis-handling of the county's water crisis. Ryedale Tourist Association warned local MP John Greenway yesterday that tourists are arriving in the county expecting to find a desert. According to Keith Hartwell, owner of the Balmoral Hotel, Harrogate: "Many tourists have been cancelling bookings because they fear there will be no water. Others who do arrive think water will be rationed, and that they'll have to wash in buckets."

RED-FACED Paul Seymour, chairman of the Continuing Care Conference, was juggling bottles of red and white wine yesterday, while chewing on a Havana. Recalling memories of his mis-spent youth, Seymour boasted that he once bet the barman at Cranfield College he could knock back 21 pints. After 17, Seymour had to call a halt, when three nurses lured him on to the dance floor.

MORAG PRESTON

The truth is buried in the small print

Praise for Britain's economic policies ought not to be taken at face value

Isn't it one of life's glorious little ironies that, just as John Major is trying his best to make Britain look silly and incompetent by warring with Europe over beef, he is told by two well-respected groups of economists that Britain's policies are superior to those of our continental European competitors. In Paris last week, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development extolled Britain — along with New Zealand — for making the most progress on reducing structural rigidities in the labour market and therefore producing "encouraging signs of a fall in structural unemployment". The OECD's latest report on Britain is out later today and is expected to downgrade Britain's growth prospects this year because of the Maastricht-inspired slowdown in continental European economies. However, on the positive side there will be further praise of Britain's labour market reforms.

Britain's devotion to free market economic policies receives even greater endorsement today by the World Economic Forum, the Davos economic think-tank. Britain this year nudges up to fifteenth place in the Forum's World Competitiveness League from eighteenth last year. It is, surprisingly, placed well above both Germany and France.

Should all this unaccustomed praise for Britain's handling of her economy be taken at face value? Of course not. There are, no doubt, healthy debates within each organisation, but both are prisoners of well-established economic orthodoxies.

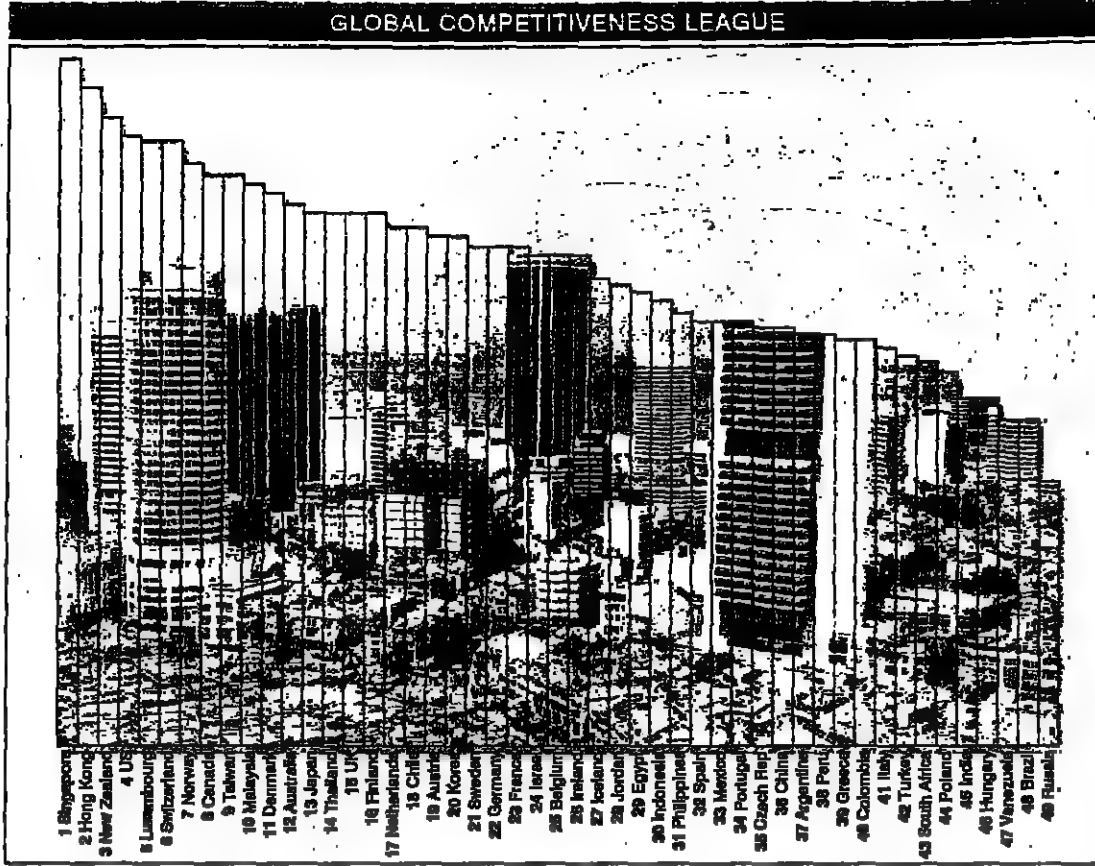
The OECD is actually doing some intelligent and balanced work on how to tackle unemployment. But its analysis — at least that for public consumption — still comes down

heavily in favour of Anglo-Saxon-style flexibility. The Government is sure to focus on praise of labour market reforms. But little will appear of the private discussions between OECD and British officials in which concerns were expressed about widening income disparities and poverty — the rather inconvenient flip side of flexibility. (The OECD always defers somewhat to the political sensitivities of its subject countries, not least because of their contributions to its lavish operation in Paris.)

Actually, the OECD is suffering from ideological entrapment on a far grander scale. It still insists on worrying about inflation and balancing budgets to the exclusion of all else. This accounted for an astonishing blank spot at last week's annual meeting. Officials talked incessantly about how to create jobs, but insisted that European governments go on cutting deficits to the Maastricht timetable. Nobody wanted to admit the blindingly obvious link between a massive over-ordinated deflation and rising joblessness.

The OECD probably tries to please too many masters. But the World Economic Forum seems to have discovered a particularly virulent form of religion. It has completely changed its methodology of calculating competitiveness (which means Britain's fifteenth and eighteenth places are not strictly comparable). This year's method is weighted far more heavily in favour of countries with free market policies.

The biggest weights are given to openness to international trade and finance, the depth of financial markets, the flexibility of the domestic labour market and quality of government. This last category is biased



towards those who intervene less, tax less and spend less.

One could hardly choose three measures of competitiveness which would suit the current British Government better. Pace those who think we still have to put up with a meddlesome government and pay too much tax, the Forum's view of the world has moved so close to this Government's that it must count as something of a disappointment that Britain has only moved up three steps from last year's calculation.

Mr Major's party will no doubt be jumping up and down with glee

today, but nobody can describe this report as objective. In the state interference sub-category, Britain is sixth-best in the world for "not hindering the development of business". It is hard to know how on earth that can be calculated and perhaps one shouldn't really attempt such an exercise.

Should we really take seriously an analysis which places France and Germany below Chile, Finland, Hong Kong and — yes — Britain in a competitiveness league. The Forum says of Europe's largest economy: "Germany, the economic power-

house of the European Union, does no better than twenty-second, consistent with the ill mood in Germany today, as the so-called social partners debate the downsizing of the German welfare state." The contempt in the phrase "so-called social partners" leaves no doubt about the ideological bias here.

The sight of the OECD and the World Economic Forum clinging ever more earnestly to the free market, Anglo-Saxon model is an unexpected bonus for John Major, but bewildering in a wider context. The Forum argues that its free

market bias is based on the results of the academic findings of the past few years. This is a highly selective view of the available literature. Attitudes are changing.

Stephen Roach, the chief economist of Morgan Stanley and the man who advocated corporate downsizing as the key to increasing American competitiveness has recanted. Cost cutting alone is damaging. Now he wants American companies to invest in the skills of their workforces. Lifetime learning is becoming a popular concept. America is thinking about raising its minimum wage. Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers, talks about "security of employability".

A middle course is being plotted between opposing ideologies. The OECD, for all its silliness on EMU, is part of that process. So too is the trade union advisory committee to the OECD which advocates an adaptable, rather than flexible, labour market. But is Britain changing with the debate?

When ministers applaud the Forum's findings today, they should be aware of the small print. In the labour category, Britain comes thirty-fourth out of 48 for its ability to supply skilled labour; thirty-fifth for an education system which meets the needs of a competitive economy; fortieth for in-company training. But we are fourth best at hiring and firing, fifth best at restructuring our workforces (this usually means making people redundant) and eleventh best for avoiding the social costs of employment (informal, under-the-table work contracts to avoid National Insurance, sick pay, holiday pay, etc.).

In the straightforward category of gross domestic investment as a percentage of gross domestic product, Britain comes forty-eighth out of 49. Well, that nails the argument. We really must be superior to Germany and France.

Corner shops share jackpot with giants

Jon Ashworth checks out the commission being earned by retailers, large and small

Tesco, Sainsbury, and other big supermarket groups are earning millions of pounds in commission on National Lottery sales.

They join newsagents, garages and independent corner shops in an enterprise that has boosted cash flow and seen overall trade increase by as much as 25 per cent. The only sour note is struck by the hundreds of retailers who claim they are being barred from the Camelot network.

More than £350 million has been paid out in commission so far. National Lottery outlets earn 5 per cent on ticket sales along with 1 per cent on prizes paid out in cash. Multiples sell an average of £14,750 in lottery tickets each week. Commission over the entire year works out at about £39,000 per outlet.

More than half of all lottery tickets are sold on Saturday, typically in big supermarkets, where punters buy a ticket along with the weekly shop. The most successful online outlets include Tesco in Waltham Cross and Morrisons in Bishop Auckland.

The sure groups concede that the lottery has provided extra income, but say that having Camelot terminals makes little difference to overall sales. J Sainsbury said: "Sales are very good, but people are coming in anyway."

There is also the additional expense of hiring staff to operate the Camelot kiosks. Sainsbury will not disclose how much it is making from the lottery. However, its 230 online terminals could be generating £9 million a year or more in commission.

Camelot says independent chains sell an average of £4,500 in tickets a week, generating about £11,900 a year in commission. A typical corner shop reports weekly sales of £3,350, and earns an average of £8,894 a year in commission.

T&S Stores, whose 814 outlets include Dillons newsagents, is generating more than £2 million a week in lottery sales. Jim McCarthy, chief executive, said: "The lottery has become a very important part of our retail offer."

Successful independents include Surendra Patel and his wife, Arvindaben, who run a newsagents in Hemel Hempstead. Mr Patel earns an average of £450 a week in commission from lottery sales and has seen a 15 per cent increase in general sales.

Mr Patel says the lottery helped to compensate for the arrival of a Tesco store. He said: "Our turnover had fallen by 20-25 per cent. Now it is only a little bit down. The lottery has given us life."

The real benefits to retailers lie in the volume of ticket sales, according to Mintel, the market analyst. A grocery and newsagents chain with 200 terminals could be expected to boost its operating income by up to £2 million in commission, and a supermarket multiple with a similar number of terminals by half as much again. Mintel says: "These sums are considerable and, despite cost implications, represent an important source of income."

THE OTHER LOTTERY MILLIONAIRES



Surendra Patel and his wife, Arvindaben, saw a rise in sales

All smiles at the Treasury

The amounts in sales and prizes are greater than anyone predicted, but is the economy better off? Observers say the lottery's impact on spending in the economy has been negligible in spite of the vast sums being diverted into tickets.

Lottery sales average about £90 million a week, or more than 3 per cent of the weekly value of total retail sales, according to Andrew Cates, UK economist at UBS. Government statisticians assume that half the money spent on the lottery is returned as prizes, and as such is simply a transfer from one person to another. The other half scores as spending on betting and gaming, an addition to total consumer spending but not to retail sales.

One effect of the lottery has been to shift expenditure away from goods included in retail sales towards "services" included in consumers' expenditure. That

is, spending on the lottery has displaced spending that would otherwise have been spent on retail goods. Last year, retail sales grew by just 14 per cent, which compares with growth in services spending of nearly 34 per cent. Mr Cates says that higher interest rates and exchange-rate depreciation also had a bearing.

The lottery's effect on total spending in the economy has probably been pretty negligible, although it is hard to determine the precise impact. About half of the total prize money is returned in amounts typically of less than £100 per winner, and it is likely that much of this is immediately re-spent. But almost half the prize money is paid out in amounts of greater than £100,000, and most of this is probably saved.

Assuming that half the money spent on the lottery, displaced spending on substi-

utes, and that a third of all prize money has so far been re-spent, total consumer spending was perhaps boosted 0.1 per cent as a direct result of the lottery's introduction last year. To the extent that most of this expenditure was simply a transfer between the personal sector and the public sector, there has been very little impact on overall economic activity.

In spite of this neutral impact, the lottery's introduction has undoubtedly given rise to winners and losers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the losers have been other forms of gambling, leisure spending and possibly donations to charity.

One important winner has been the Treasury. This is because delays in contributing money to the good causes have boosted general government receipts, flattening the PSBR by more than £1 billion in 1995.

Bands hit winning note

Boosey & Hawkes is an obvious destination for the thousands of pounds in lottery money devoted to brass bands, but has it made that much difference? Richard Holland, chief executive, recently admitted that the lottery had played a part in driving up profits at the instrument division, which reported sales of £64.4 million last year, a 6 per cent increase. However, the company has backpedalled since then, claiming it has made little difference to overall sales.

David Humphries, managing director of the instrument division, played down the lottery's impact. He said: "Yes, it's great, and orders from anywhere help, but one can't get it out of proportion. Ninety per cent of our brass instruments are exported."

Competitors, however, are less charitable about Boosey & Hawkes' dominance of the market. One said: "The message from our men on the road is it would be easier for the lottery to give the money straight to Boosey & Hawkes."

"Not all the money ends up being spent on instruments — van and coachbuilders have their share — but the amounts nevertheless run into hundreds of thousands of pounds."

In last week's funding round by the Arts Council of England, £440,000 out of a total of £28.2 million, 1.5 per cent, was set aside for musical instruments. That compares with previous "brass band" tranches of £454,632, £371,708 and £280,380. More than 80 brass and silver bands in England have benefited, although bodies such as the Music Industries Association say that not enough lottery money is being used to buy instruments for schools.

Musical instruments are not the only focus. Mercedes Benz has reported a run of interest from touring theatre companies in its eight-seater Megavans, which costs about £35,000 including VAT, in its converted form, and comes equipped with wheelchair lift and automatic gearboxes.

One London troupe, Quicksilver Theatre for Children, persuaded Mercedes to contribute 10 per cent of the cost of a van, with the balance coming from the lottery. Mercedes has sold ten Megavans so far, with quotes requested on several more. Demand is expected to grow as more funds are released.

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The day includes the final of the Ambassadors Cup, a week-long knockout competition, featuring players from at least 25 countries. An auction of celebrity memorabilia will raise money for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. Readers can get a £5 reduction, £5 per car fieldside and £15 per car picnic parking near the Royal Pavilion by calling 01344 890061 and quoting *The Times*. AUTHENTIC GREEK YOGHURT

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Dawson hit by higher raw material costs

By Sarah Bagnall

DAWSON International yesterday blamed higher raw material costs, lacklustre consumer demand, and adverse trading conditions in America for a 60 per cent drop in underlying pre-tax profits to £9.4 million in the year to March 30.

Profits before tax and exceptional items fell from £24.1 million in the 53 weeks in the previous year. Derek Finlay, chairman, said: "The industry

faces some of the most difficult trading conditions in living memory." The decline in profits was on the back of a 24.4 per cent fall in total sales to £331.1 million and a 7.4 per cent fall in sales from continuing operations to £304.1 million.

Including net exceptional costs of £5.5 million, against a profit of £400,000 last time, pre-tax profits rose from £1.7 million to £3.9 million. Mr Finlay said the group's ongoing restructuring, which has resulted in

the disposal of non-core businesses and the culling of nearly 1,000 jobs, was on course and beginning to produce benefits. He added that the order books were generally stronger than at this time last year.

Operating profits from continuing operations crashed £20.7 million to £15 million because of declining fortunes in virtually all the group's divisions. The three UK apparel operations saw pre-exceptional operating losses deteriorate from £3.6

million to £6.9 million as weak consumer demand together with increased cashmere garment prices took their toll. Sales fell 15 per cent to £89.4 million. The bulk of the division's loss was down to the Pringle knitwear business, which suffered from falling margins.

Excluding exceptional charges, the group's fibres and yarns division saw profits fall £7.9 million to £10.9 million on sales 10 per cent lower at £93.9 million. Similarly, the fabrics

business saw profits fall by nearly two-thirds to £2.5 million. The US apparel business also suffered as profits fell from £13.2 million to £8.7 million on sales down slightly at £100.5 million.

The final dividend was held at 1.5p, making an unchanged total for the year of 3p. The final dividend, due on August 13, is payable out of continuing earnings per share of 4.1p.

Tempos, page 28

Politicking puts £1bn LG project in jeopardy

By George Stivell

POLITICAL infighting appears to be jeopardising a £1 billion investment in Britain by LG, one of the big four conglomerates that dominate the South Korean economy. The investment would create 4,000 jobs in a depressed area of Britain.

Sources close to the project believe that the Korean company is growing tired of what it sees as infighting between politicians representing Wales and Scotland, who are both vying for the project.

There is some political posturing going on which is getting in the way of the question of LG's investment in the UK, one source said. He added that there were "unhelpful" signs of tension between William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, and Michael Forsyth, his Scottish counterpart, both of whom would gain political kudos by securing the investment for their respective regions.

According to an authoritative report by the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* several weeks ago, LG, formerly known as Lucky Goldstar, was on the point of going ahead with the project at a site in Wales on the banks of the River Severn. Previously it had been apparent that LG wanted to build a semiconductor plant in Britain but was still deciding from

a variety of sites, one of which included Scotland. LG already operates a thriving television and microwave oven plant on South Tyneside.

But since the BBC report, sources close to the project say that LG has not been in touch with either the Welsh Development Agency or Scottish Enterprise, although a decision on the project had been expected by mid-April.

Mr Forsyth is in Korea at the moment on what has been widely seen as a mission to convince LG to choose Scotland as the site for the plant. But officials at Scottish Enterprise said the trip had been planned some time in advance and would not comment on which companies Mr Forsyth planned to visit.

Large inward-investment decisions such as LG's are often subject to last-minute delays as investors weigh up the attractions, including government assistance, offered by potential sites.

There has been speculation that the two are now holding off from decisions to invest in Britain in case the beef crisis leads to a deeper split between Britain and the European Union. But this did not prevent Daewoo, in late March, from expanding production at its video recorder factory in Antrim, Northern Ireland, creating a further 330 jobs.



John Finbow, managing director, left, and Brian Hobbs, technical director, the co-founders of City Technology

City Technology set for float

By Philip Pangalos

CITY Technology Holdings, a designer and maker of electrochemical and catalytic head gas sensors, is expected to be capitalised at up to £80 million when it floats on the stock market next month.

City Technology is seeking a full listing through a placing by Cazenove & Co, sponsor, underwriter and broker to the issue. The offer size is expected to be about £45 million, with about £20 million of new money likely.

The company, which was formed by City University in

1977 to make an oxygen sensor developed at the university, has undergone significant expansion and was the subject of a £24.5 million management buyout in 1993. The buyout was backed by a group of venture capital investors led by 3i. At present, the company is concentrating on safety-monitoring sensors that detect unsafe gases and emissions monitoring.

John Finbow, managing director and co-founder, said the proceeds from the flotation would be used to redeem

£8.2 million of preference shares and pay down debt, substantially reducing gearing from its present level of about 85 per cent. He added that the group intended to continue expanding its products and geographical territories. With Asia, the Far East and South Africa seen as key target markets.

The company made an operating profit of £5.8 million in 1995, on turnover of £14.4 million, with exports accounting for 75 per cent of sales. About 25 per cent of

sales are derived in the United Kingdom, while about 45 per cent are in the US.

Directors will see a combined stake of 42 per cent diluted to about 31 per cent post-float. Mr Finbow, who has a 14 per cent shareholding, will become a paper millionaire. His stake will dilute to about 10.5 per cent.

There will be an employee priority offer of up to 10 per cent of the placing. Impact day and pricing is expected on June 13, with dealings scheduled to begin on June 20.

Leeson echoes heard in \$350m fraud trial of US bond trader

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

WALL STREET'S dirty linen is on public show again in the trial of Joseph Jett, the government bond trader sacked from Kidder Peabody two years ago on charges of having invented phoney trades that lost the firm millions of dollars.

After a week of hearings at Manhattan Federal district court, the Securities and Exchange Commission has failed to prove that Mr Jett, the head of Kidder's government bond-dealing desk, was a rogue trader acting alone and without the knowledge of his superiors. Unless SEC lawyers can strengthen their case this week, the industry watchdog could be heading for a historic defeat.

Meanwhile, Mr Jett has condemned the proceedings as a "kangaroo court" since he was denied the jury trial he had requested. His lawyer argues that Mr Jett is being treated as a scapegoat.

The Jett case bears many similarities to Nick Leeson and Barings since the SEC claims Mr Jett manipulated Kidder's computer accounting system to post false trades that created \$350 million in phoney profits to make up for \$100 million in real losses.

On the strength of those profits he became the firm's star trader and was paid a \$5 million bonus in 1993. But when the fake trades were discovered the next year, Kidder came close to collapse before General Electric, its owner, sold it and sacked much of the senior management.

While Leeson admitted his faults, Mr Jett insists he hid nothing from his superiors, who approved his trading strategy. As with Barings, there is the question of whether Kidder's senior managers knew what he was doing, or whether they were negligent for failing to spot the fake trades for nearly two years.

The evidence threatens to become bewilderingly complex since the trades consisted of "strips", where government bonds were broken down into their interest and principal elements which were then sold off separately, and "recons",

where such bonds were reconstituted to their original state. But Mr Jett has presented evidence that his trading records had been openly available to his superiors and the SEC has not yet shown how he might have concealed what he was doing.

If Mr Jett loses, the penalties will be severe. The SEC wants to ban him from the securities industry for life and confiscate \$8 million of his money from his Kidder bank accounts.

Kalamazoo jumps on \$33m buy

SHARES in Kalamazoo Computer Group jumped 28p to 143p after the company confirmed it is expanding its operations with the acquisition of the European-based Automotive Dealer Systems division (Eads) of Datapoint Corporation of the US for up to \$33 million (Philip Pangalos writes).

The acquisition will be part funded by a £7.5 million placing and open offer on a 22-for-100 basis at 103p a share, with the balance coming from the group's cash resources and bank facilities.

Eads is the largest supplier of dealer management systems to Ford in continental Europe and will provide the enlarged group with the potential to deliver pan-European systems solutions to large motor manufacturers.

Eads made an operating profit of £2.76 million in the year to July 31, 1995, on turnover of £23.3 million. Kalamazoo also forecasts a drop in full year pre-tax profits to at least £3.9 million (£6.82 million) for the year to March 31, 1996. The directors also plan a 3.05p final dividend, making 4.15p (3.75p).

Tandem reassures after £2m loss

By Martin Barrow



Garland: huge potential

TANDEM, one of Britain's few surviving bicycle manufacturers, yesterday sought to reassure investors on its long-term prospects after disclosing losses of £2.19 million for the year to January 28.

The company, announcing its first results since the merger with Casket in November 1995 and the change of name from EFC, said borrowings had been substantially reduced since the year-end. Production facilities were now in better shape to make gains in Europe.

Robin Garland, chief executive, said: "Although the

first results since the merger are initially disappointing, the cycle business has huge potential." He said said measures taken to improve performance had been more extensive than was anticipated at the time of the merger. Production had been consolidated from four sites into two.

Last year Tandem, whose brands include Townsend, Falcon and British Eagle, sold more than 600,000 cycles, representing almost 30 per cent of the UK market. Its losses included a goodwill write-off of £1.53 million and compared with profits of

£917,000 in the previous 12 months. Losses were 4.15p a share, against earnings of 1.91p. There is no dividend for the year (0.5p). The shares were unchanged at 14p.

The operating loss of £1.28 million included a £1.54 million loss incurred by the Casket companies in the quiet trading months of December and January.

By the year-end borrowings were reduced by £8.5 million to £19.7 million and debts have been further reduced through the sale of Richmond Horticulture and the restructuring of Casket's clothing business.

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Bill eases French Telecom share sale

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

THE French Government yesterday approved a Bill changing the state-owned France Telecom into a corporation, paving the way for the sale of up to 49 per cent of its stock but leaving control with the state.

François Fillon, Telecommunications Minister, said the sale of shares in the company would probably take place in the first half of 1997. The timing would depend on market conditions and the timing of the sales of Deutsche Telekom, which is scheduled for the end of this year, and Italy's Stet later in 1997. Analysts estimate France Telecom will be valued at about Fr200 billion.

The draft Bill calls for the state to retain 51 per cent in the group and earmarks 10 per cent of the capital for staff. From next January, France Telecom would be a limited company and no longer a branch of the civil service. However, the Government has guaranteed it will continue to pay the pensions of staff and has promised current staff they will not lose civil servant status.

France Telecom will have to pay the state a one-off sum to compensate for the Government's pension guarantee — estimated at between Fr40 billion and Fr50 billion. M. Fillon said the state would assume a pension liability of some Fr250 billion while France Telecom would only pay about Fr100 billion in pension charges.

M. Fillon said he expected that Deutsche Telekom and America's Sprint Corp would take stakes in France Telecom. Parliament has already passed a law opening up France's telecommunications sector to full competition from January 1998.

M. Fillon said that over the next ten years France Telecom employees aged 55 and older could take early retirement on 70 per cent of their wages. He expects 35,000 staff to do so, while 20,000 to 25,000 would retire normally.



David Quarumby who has been appointed to beat the drum for British tourists, a role he performed for Sainsbury's and London Transport

Business fights to retain old Hong Kong airport

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

BUSINESSMEN in Hong Kong are calling for the retention of Kai Tak airport, due to be closed in early 1998 when the new international airport at Chek Lap Kok opens.

Sir Piers Jacobs, the colony's Financial Secretary until 1990, said yesterday: "We can have this inner-city airport virtually for nothing. Communications are terrible into most of south China, awful roads, but there are lots of small airports."

He added: "Hong Kong is about service, about commun-

ications — let's not throw this local airport away."

The feasibility of keeping the old airport surfaced just before the signing today of a British-Chinese agreement to construct a second runway at Chek Lap Kok. Airport officials said that with the new runway there would be no need to keep an inner-city airport.

But Sir Piers said "It would be near everything, a short drive from the main hotels. We need a first-class interna-

tional airport, but why spend hours getting in and out of one if you're just doing short business trips?"

R. A. Siegel, director of civil aviation, said: "If you're flying down from China on a commuter plane and land at the city airport and want to get to the international one, you'd have an awfully long connection. And what about transferring cargo from one airport to another? It could be really awkward."

Other objections from air-

port officials yesterday centred on environmental questions — especially aircraft noise, which is a huge social issue in the colony — and air traffic congestion.

Martin Craig, president of Saab Aircraft International, rejected both factors. "The kinds of commuter planes I have in mind, 50-seaters, wouldn't even be heard over the car traffic noise. They would land two thirds of the way down the strip at a steep angle, and would hardly fly over any houses. It wouldn't be like now with these huge long-distance jumbo jets. And as a commuter facility it would only use 30 per cent of the present airport anyway."

It is unlikely that Kai Tak will be preserved. A government commission is preparing plans for the sale of the profitable land for housing, although Sir Piers and Mr Craig both insist that present property values would soar if Kai Tak became a commuter airport.

Bottomley names new Tourist head

DAVID QUARUMBY, a former joint managing director of J Sainsbury, was yesterday appointed chairman of the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board (Harvey Elliott writes).

Mr Quarumby, 54, takes over on June 1 from Adele Biss, whose contract was terminated by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, last month. He spent 14 years with London Transport where he was director of operational research, chief commercial and planning officer, and managing director of buses, and was responsible for the popular Travelcard. At Sainsbury's he directed store operations, logistics and personnel, and is chairman of Savacentre, the hypermarket chain.

Mrs Bottomley, who is in Japan leading a BTA trade mission, said yesterday: "David Quarumby is a proven business strategist with an impressive track record and leadership skills."

Peter Moore, managing director of Center Parcs, was also appointed to the English Tourist Board.

Travel news, pages 34 and 35

South Koreans to open Scottish plant

A SOUTH Korean industrial group is to invest £8.6 million in Scotland, creating almost 300 jobs. Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, announced yesterday during a two-day visit to Seoul. Shin Ho Tech plans to build a factory in Glenrothes to assemble computer monitors. Last week, Kohdenka, a Japanese company, said that it would invest £6.5 million in Dunfermline, creating 87 new jobs.

Shin Ho Tech plans to begin construction of the factory in the third quarter of this year and start production in the second quarter of 1997. It will supply a range of United Kingdom and European customers. Mr Forsyth, who was in South Korea on the second leg of an inward investment initiative in the Far East, said: "This decision by Shin Ho Tech is important because it is ground-breaking and I am determined that their investment will be followed by other Korean companies." He added: "This is excellent news for Scotland and I look forward to Shin Ho Tech contributing to and sharing the success of the Scottish electronics industry." The electronics industry employs about 54,000 people in Scotland.

Paper profits fall

THE Bristol Evening Post yesterday reported a 12.6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits, to £5.6 million, in the year to March 31, on turnover of £61.2 million, up 2 per cent. The downturn was largely due to a £1.64 million charge taken on the closure of its Ludlow print works. Yeovil. Profits before exceptional items were up 7 per cent to £5.6 million, in spite of a 26 per cent rise in newspaper costs. A final dividend of 9p makes the total 14p, up 9.8 per cent. The company is changing its name to Bristol United Press to reflect the fact that it publishes and prints newspapers other than the Evening Post.

Snecma chief sacked

THE French Government yesterday dismissed Bernard Dufour as chairman of Snecma, the state aircraft engine firm. Alain Lamassouse, a government spokesman, said that "recent statements" by M. Dufour had questioned Snecma's strategy, and that he had failed to change policy "in spite of repeated requests from the Government". *Le Echos*, the economic daily, reported that M. Dufour had angered the Government by asking for a capital increase of between Fr6 billion and Fr10 billion, whereas the Government wanted him to sell some of the company's assets.

Abacus Polar warning

ABACUS POLAR, a distributor of electronic components in Britain and Scandinavia, told shareholders that sales and profits in the second half would be adversely affected by a worldwide increase in the supply of semiconductors and passive products for the personal computer market. The company, formed through the merger of Abacus and Polar in December, reported a rise in profits to £4.49 million before tax, from £3.1 million, in the half year to March 31. Earnings were 7.3p a share, rising from 5.9p. The interim dividend rises to 1.8p, from 1.6p. The shares fell 19p to 220p.

Hawtin dividend rise

HAWTIN, the leisure, fitness and textile products company, reported profits of £2 million before tax for the half-year to March 31, rising from £1.65 million in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 1.82p a share, compared with 1.53p, and the interim dividend is increased to 0.5p from 0.4p. Turnover of £25.6 million compared with £17.1 million previously and there was a 38 per cent advance in operating profits from continuing operations to £2.4 million. Hawtin's shares rose 1p to 54½p yesterday.

Companies could be hectored

Tax self-assessment controversy is about to return with a vengeance, says Heather Self

One may be forgiven for thinking that the debate had drawn to a close after the blaze of publicity surrounding personal tax self-assessment died down. But self-assessment is set to return with a vengeance for another group of taxpayers — UK companies. And for them, it may be even tougher.

The initial reaction of many companies may be "So what, we have been complying with Pay and File for three years, haven't we?". Indeed, they have. The basic principle of corporates, calculating their own tax, rather than the Inland Revenue doing it for them, was established under the 1993 system.

However, corporate self-assessment, which is currently going through a long consultation period (the official start date being clouded by the uncertainty over the next general election), means much more than that.

Doubtless we will see the "Son of Hector the Inspector" or some such Revenue advertising follow-up, promising the business world a leaner, quicker, more efficient corporate tax system, just like the original bowler-hatted Hector

has done for personal tax self-assessment. But there are already worrying signs.

A key issue is that the Revenue, as with personal tax self-assessment, will have increased powers of investigation, some of them random. This means that inspectors will be able to make inquiries without giving specific reasons. And with no assessment work to do, the Revenue will have the manpower to spare.

Allied to this is the introduction of a penalty regime noticeably stricter than under Pay and File. While the Revenue is at pains to emphasise that this will be triggered only by "fraudulent or negligent delivery" of a tax return, the view at Somerset House of what is negligence may be very different to that of a hard-pressed company. This gulf in perception has already been seen in the thorny issue of disclosure. The Revenue has belatedly increased the amount of white space on the proposed self-assessment form under the pivotal Electronic Lodgement Service to allow accounts to accompany a taxpayer's return — but it would not cope with, say, a sale contract if it were needed to give the re-



Heather Self believes a more pragmatic approach is needed

quired "full information" about a transaction.

Yet the greatest headache for finance directors of multinationals could be the increasingly critical area of transfer pricing. Just picture the scene as the deadline for filling in the corporate return ap-

proaches. You have contacted the tax directors in your affiliated companies in Spain, Brazil and Kazakhstan and have worked out all the related-party cash flows. But what about the spare capacity which the UK allowed the German subsidiary to use on a

"cost plus 5 per cent" basis this year, which was itself a quid pro quo for a similar agreement in reverse last year?

And what of those losses that were accepted as a strategic decision in attempting to penetrate the Vietnam market for a couple of years — now four? And as for those interest-free loans between UK group companies...

suddenly the thought of signing a declaration that every transaction has been made on a strictly "arm's-length" basis is rather daunting.

Major changes to tax law seem to be brought in under the guise of a move to self-assessment, with no good case being brought for them. It is easy to blame the Revenue (and some of the more technical changes are clearly being driven by Somerset House), but the feeling persists that politicians have made promises which bind the Revenue into an unnecessarily tight timetable. We need to slow down and work out a system which does not result in needless burdens on business.

Further bureaucracy could be on the cards with a formal rulings system. While a regime that is binding on the Revenue would clearly be needed, it would be a shame if the current informal system disappeared, which is one forum where useful communication can take place.

A pragmatic, commercial view must be taken by all sides — one can only hope that the unpromising beginnings are left behind and the move to corporate self-assessment does not cause the business community to begin the third millennium under a cloud.

Heather Self is an international tax partner in Ernst & Young.

Leaders must show faith in profession

LAST WEEK, an impressive alliance of professional people wrote a letter to the President of the Board of Trade. It was quite unprecedented. It is the question of why it was unprecedented that is so intriguing.

The letter was signed by the heads of the main accountancy bodies whose members carry out auditing, by bodies representing actuaries and architects, construction and investment bankers, pension fund managers and finance directors. As Graham Ward, of Price Waterhouse, who has been masterminding the exercise for the English ICA, pointed out, there were representatives from every area with a set of accounts.

The letter was, of course, the one calling on Ian Lang to set in motion a review of the law on liability. There are excellent reasons for his doing so. As the Scottish ICA president, Robert Smith, of Morgan Grenfell, commented at the time: "There is already clear evidence that anxieties flowing from the present situation are stifling the development of more useful audits and audit reports, which benefits no one."

Or, as Peter Smith, chairman of Coopers & Lybrand, put it: "The overwhelming issue is that it is not commercially defensible or realistic that we should financially underwrite the failure of management from whom we are wholly independent." We know all that. We know the current system is unjust. But we also know governments see few votes in the professions and delay is their only policy on this one.

What is interesting about this development is that it has happened at all. The question is why the professions and the associated trade associations have not done this before. After all, the reforms achieved in the US were achieved in precisely this way. There, a coalition of lawyers, accountants and information technology companies fought for, and won, significant concessions to deter what they called "frivolous" lawsuits and gain a principle of proportionate liability in assessing blame where cases were obviously somewhat more serious.

The difference seems to be that in the US, where they are much more traditional about things anyway, the professions still have the courage of their convictions. They still believe that what they are doing is right. In this country, that feeling is much less strong. In recent weeks, we have had several examples. The leaders of the profession have

put in bombastic performances while their critics have gained the upper hand. It is the rebels and the reformers who have the courage of their convictions. The leaders seem less sure.

Presidents of professional bodies and chairmen of the trade associations are the ones who differ. When faced with an annual meeting that was going the way of the dissidents the other week, the president of the certified accountants did not attempt reasoned argument. He didn't try to put his own views across. He simply refused to take any more questions and closed the meeting.

The same feeling comes across if you look at the latest report and accounts of the English ICA. It is full of flannel. The report begins: "One word sums up our theme for 1995 and beyond — excellence." On reading that, there can be only one reaction — to sling it in the bin.

But we are talking of a report by the biggest accountancy body in the country. Almost all of its 109,000 members deal with figures and reports most of their lives. They know what flannel is. Why does their institute not know?

The report has a fine photograph of the president, the secretary and the other two office-holders, taken in the warm glow of the old library at Moorgate Place. It looks just as it should — four solid, amiable and competent people, just right to warn a minister that a policy is off beam, to tell a client that an accounting policy is not on, or to advise you on a pension.

But turn the page, and you find yards of patronising waffle. Eight pages are divided between the council's report and an extraordinary sequence headed "Did You Know?", resembling the gee-whizz stuff served up to teenagers by magazines with not a clue about their market.

Some of the information is impressive, for example the number of technical and ethical enquiries dealt with by the institute. Some is nonsense. Some of the most useful services are listed under the headline "Best-kept secrets", which suggests the institute is somehow embarrassed about them.

When the profession's leaders seem so unsure of themselves, their message and what they stand for, it is no wonder that politicians can get away with shelling eminently reasonable reforms. What the leaders need is gravitas and to mean it.



ROBERT BRUCE

Top lament on self-assessment

THE great verse competition that we organised in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Taxation has been a tremendous success.

An extraordinary number of entries arrived via fax, post and e-mail, and only goes to show just how annoyed people are by self-assessment, the topic for the verses. The brief was to come up with the best ditty to celebrate, illuminate or vilify the self-assessment system.

You could, like Kate Hibbert of London N7, one of the runners-up, be realistic about it all:

Where once we could relax
While experts did our tax,
Now we're self-assessing.
How depressing.

Even the taxmen themselves are joining in the chorus of disapproval. Another runner-up is Leon Rose, of Stockport, himself a retired inspector of

taxes. He takes the concept of tax penalties to their logical conclusion:

I used to get my tax assessed,
And that was always a bit of a pest.
But now we have self-assessment.
What follows? — self-arrestment?

The winner, who will shortly be the recipient of a magnum of champagne from the

Chartered Institute of Taxation, is Brenda Walsh, of Oxfordshire. These are her views:

Keep your records up to date,
For if you don't I will seal your fate.
No use for you to plead or beg.
The penalty's an arm and leg.

ROBERT BRUCE

Shares close below best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Home is where the holiday is

An all-party committee of MPs is to hold an inquiry into tourism in Britain in an attempt to find out what can be done to "encourage tourists, especially from abroad".

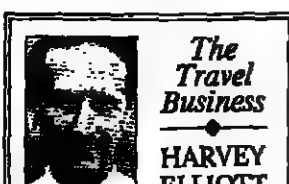
We need as many of these foreign visitors as we can get to help to kick-start the economy. But as David Quarmby, the former joint managing director of Sainsbury who was appointed yesterday to be the new chairman of the British Tourist Authority, is already all too aware, we also need to encourage British holiday-makers to spend more of their free time on home soil.

And despite the gloomy weather so far, this summer could just see the rebirth of domestic British tourism. It is predicted that at least one million fewer package holidaymakers will go abroad this year. Yet most of that missing million are surely going to want to take a holiday somewhere.

Evidence that they are beginning to look closer to home is so far largely anecdotal. But hotel occupancy rates are now on the way up, and even prices rises well ahead of inflation have not slowed the bookings. But hotels are not the only — or even the best — places to stay while on holiday.

There is a growing demand for "chocolate-box" holiday cottages, which tour operators from Thomson to Hosesons, as well as specialist operators such as Rural Retreats and the National Trust, are all now coming increasingly to regard as money-spinners, both for themselves and for their individual owners.

The cottage owners can expect to make more than £8,000 a year on a property sleeping six people, which is then rented out through a company, and still have a holiday home for themselves for four weeks of the year. Families or groups of friends



can rent them at a fraction of the cost of travelling abroad. Canal boat cruising is now twice as popular as a day at an amusement park, and the 2,000-mile network of inland waterways with their rural towpaths, working heritage, slow pace of life and canal-side pubs are also increasingly appealing, even to tourists normally prepared to fly to the ends of the earth in search of that "something different".

Farmers reeling from the BSE crisis are ever more willing to look for new sources of income — and with financial assistance from the European Commission for turning farms into holiday centres, staying on a farm has changed beyond recognition.

Hundreds of farmers have now converted barns and stables to accommodate visitors, turned large areas of land into four-wheel-drive vehicle courses, fishing lakes and farm parks, and now offer a standard unheard of only a few years ago.

Fuelled by largely hysterical scares about health hazards such as the meningitis outbreak in Majorca, cancer from the sun, and heart disease from the cabins of aeroplanes, the urge to holiday at home is growing all the time.

As we report elsewhere, much needs to be done to ensure that protectionist local authorities realise how significant tourism is to their economy. Given the right impetus foreign package holidays can begin to take second place to home-based holidays. All we now need is the weather.

Bargains of the week — the latest offers on holidays, ferries, flights and hotels

HOLIDAYS

TURKEY for two weeks for £165 per person including bed and breakfast with a flight from Manchester next Wednesday is available from Portland Holidays. Details: 0990 002200.

MARGARITA Island, Venezuela, an unusual sunshine destination, is on offer throughout June for £649 per person including flights, meals, drinks and 4-star accommodation from Goldenjoy Holidays. Details: 0171-794 9767.

LUXOR for a week for £139 per person including bed and breakfast in a 3-star hotel with flights from Gatwick on June 7 and 14 is available from Crusader Travel. Details: 0181-744 0474.

BEACH hotel holidays in Mombasa with direct flights from Manchester are on offer for £429 per person including seven nights' half-board accommodation from Somak Holidays until mid-June. Details: 0181-423 3000.

ARGO Holidays is offering cut-price self-catering holidays to Greek islands with flights from Gatwick to Kos on June 8, Corfu on June 10 and Rhodes on June 12. Prices range from £199 per person for a week to £299 for a fortnight. Details: 0171-331 7070.

AUSTRIAN lakes and mountains feature in week-long packages to a number of resorts on offer from Crystal Holidays. Prices start from £199 per person with flights from eight regional airports on June 15. Details: 0181-399 5144.

SAVINGS of £100 per person for a week's holiday in a suite at Cobblers Cove, Barbados, are available until July 15 from Harlequin Worldwide Travel. The new price including return BA flights is £878 per person. Details: 01708 552780.

CANOEING on the Dordogne is being offered by Headwater Holidays throughout the summer. The £467 price per person includes return ferry crossings, eight nights' half-board accommodation at hotels along the river, canoes and a lesson. Details: 01605 48699.

SPA HOTELS in Budapest feature in offers from July from Thermalia Travel with prices starting at £399 per person including flights from Heathrow, some meals and use of thermal pools. Details: 0171-483 1898.

PAN TOURS is now offering a seven-night trip to the old and new capitals of Russia — St Petersburg and Moscow, for £585 per person including half-board accommodation with a BA flight from Heathrow on August 24. Details: 0171-821 7000.



Land of the Pharaohs: visit Luxor, from Gatwick, for only £139 a week B&B

FERRIES

STENA Line is quoting £60 returns for a car and up to four passengers on its Harwich-Hook of Holland route. The fare applies to a five-day return ticket, travelling Sunday-Thursday by June 30. Details: 0990 707070.

NORTH Sea Ferries is offering 5 per cent off brochure prices, and Brittany Ferries 10 per cent off brochure fares on all routes for people booking through Eurodrive. Booking conditions may apply. Details: 0181 324 4000.

HOVERSPED is offering £59 crossings for a three-day ticket for a car and up to five people on Dover-Calais; book and travel by June 30. A £49 fare is also on offer on Folkestone-Boulogne. Details: 01304 240241.

BRITANNY Ferries and the French Tourist Office have joined forces to promote Normandy as a short-break destination. Brittany Ferries is quoting £126 for a five-day ticket on crossings from Portsmouth and Poole to Caen and Cherbourg, with accommodation from £15.50 per person per night. Details: 0990 360360.

STENA Line has again extended a duty-free promotion on ferries to France from Dover, Newhaven and Southampton with prices of selected brands cut by up to two thirds. Day-trip prices in June are £15 per car and £1 per person. Details: 0990 767676.

FLIGHTS

GULF Air has cut excursion fares to the Far East. Travel Warehouse is charging a flat return fare of £386 to either Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Bangkok or Manila. Details: 0171-414 8808.

WORLD Airlines has an introductory £199 business class fare for its London City to Amsterdam service. Details: 0171-287 6000.

KLM has special Euroflights excursions flying from many UK airports via Amsterdam. Examples include Berlin for £136, Frankfurt £121, Madrid £120, Milan £124, Stockholm £195, Turin £119, Venice £120 and Vienna £148. Details: 0171-244 8844.

CEDOK is offering low fares to Prague flying with the Czech airline CSA from London or Manchester. Return fares start at £139 in June, rising to £152 in July. Details: 0171-839 1141.

DNATA has negotiated low fares to Johannesburg flying Alitalia via Rome. Economy costs £430 with business class priced at £1,726. Details: 0171-244 8844.

DEUTSCHE BA (the British Airways German subsidiary) has launched a twice-daily service between Gatwick and Hamburg. Details: 0345 222111.

HOTELS

LONDON'S newest town house hotel, the Park Consul, opened this week with a single room rate of £105 a night, double at £135. The 46-room hotel is located in a district known as Brompton Cross between Knightsbridge and South Kensington. Details: 0171-225 7500.

HYATT Hotels has a special rate of \$105 a night for weekends at its 17 Californian hotels until June 16. The package includes breakfast, free local telephone calls and late checkout. Details: 0345 581666.

CHILDREN are welcomed at the Plymouth Ho Moat House with weekend guests offered a free baby package of everything from cot and cotton wool to bath toy and baby shampoo. Weekend prices cost from £37 per person per night with children under 16 staying free. Details: 01752 639988.

THE Ritz Hotel, London, which is celebrating its nineteenth birthday this week, has invited top French chef Joel Robuchon into its kitchens until June 8 with special seasonal dishes from Provence. Set lunches start at £28 per person with a gourmet dinner available at £85 per head. Details: 0171-493 8181.

COARSE fishing, archery and clay pigeon shooting are some of the activities available at the White Hart Hotel at Bocking End, Essex. Prices per person for a two-night, half-board stay range from £79 for the fishing to £99 for the clay pigeon shooting. Details: 01376 321401.

THE Hotel Clarence reopens in Dublin next week after an 18-month £5 million restoration. Backers of the 50-room hotel include members of the rock group U2. Rates start at £193 per room per night. Details: 0800 181535.

LATE accommodation is available this week at Bath's Queensberry Hotel for visitors to the city's music festival, which features artists ranging from Cleo Laine and John Dankworth to the Lindsay Quartet. Rooms start at £129 per night. Details: 01225 447928.

LOW season summer rates are available at Morocco's top hotel, La Mamounia in Marrakesh. Prices start at 3,420 dirhams (about £258) for a three-night stay in an Art Deco bedroom, including breakfast, airport transfers and flowers in the room. Details: 0800 181123.

AVERAGE daily room rates in UK hotels rose by 5.8 per cent last year, according to the latest survey of UK hotels from BDO Hospitality Consulting. Hotel occupancies here also rose, by 7.1 per cent over the year. Details: 0171-486 5191.

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Tourists desert the Riviera

By TONY DAWE AND STEVE KEENAN

THE French Riviera, for so long the holiday playground of the rich and famous, is losing its allure. The number of visitors has dropped by 10 per cent and Parisians are deserting its beaches and boulevards in favour of the Atlantic coast and rural areas.

Now Britain's leading holiday company is thinking of pulling out, only nine months after launching a package tour programme to the region amid publicity about the English reclaiming the Promenade des Anglais in Nice.

Thomson intended to revive the French Riviera as a mainstream destination for British holidaymakers this summer, believing the development of self-catering and hotel sports complexes would appeal to our jaded family palates.

The company contracted nine apartment and hotel resorts in Cannes, Port Grimaud, Cap Esterel, Fréjus and Cap d'Ail, with prices starting from £149 per person and weekly charter flights from Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester.

The response has been so disappointing, however, and the reaction of some who have travelled so unfavourable that

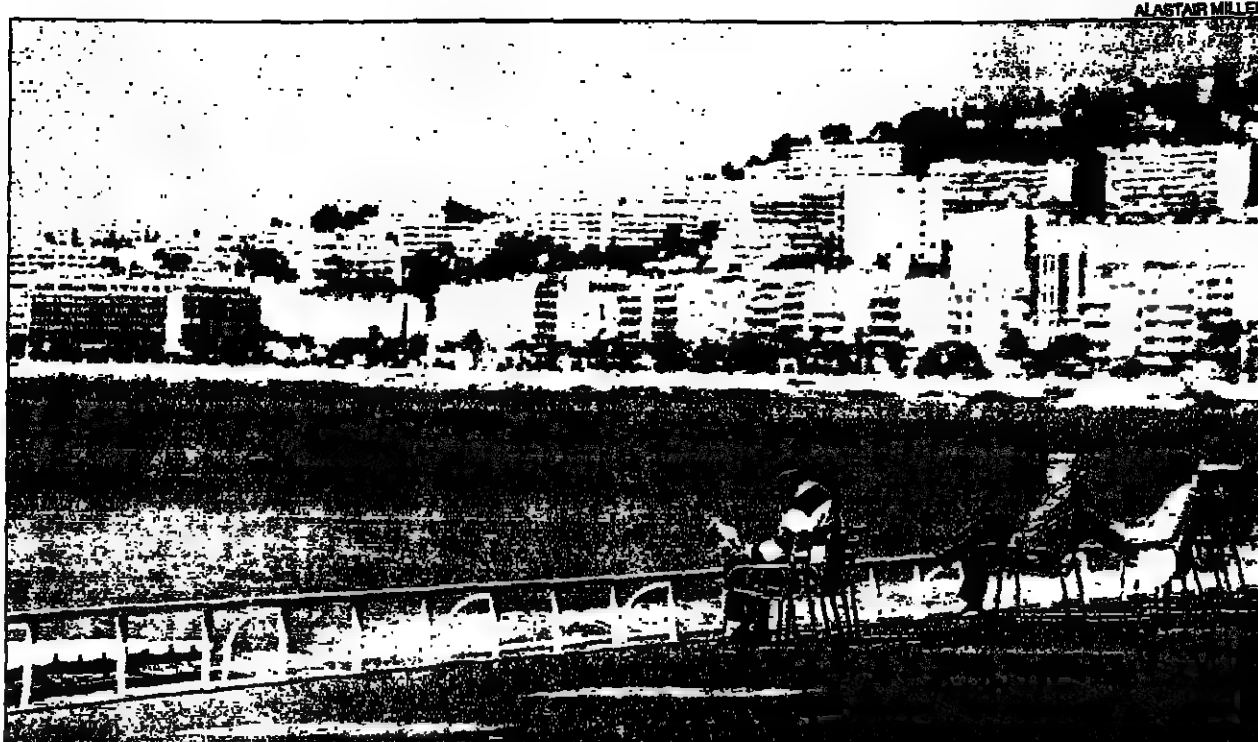
Thomson is considering dropping the Riviera from next year's summer brochure.

Its programme included the Cap Esterel complex, five miles from St Raphael and the largest of its type with 1,400 apartments. The complex boasts a nine-hole golf course, tennis, five pools, archery, mountain-biking, trekking and volleyball, with the beach a mile away, and was featured on television travel programmes earlier this year.

Stena Line, the ferry company which moved into air-based holidays this year, had taken seats on the Britannia charters operated by Thomson, but one executive said: "It is hard to put across the message about what type of holiday this is."

The decline in the Riviera's popularity is emphasised by a proliferation in bargain flights from Britain to Nice, once a premium route on which few discounts were available. Easyjet has introduced a £49.99 one-way fare from Luton to Nice and AirUK is offering a June deal of £97 for a restricted return ticket to Nice from Stansted.

The drop in visitors has disturbed tourism officials



An almost empty Promenade des Anglais in Nice. Even the British are now deserting the once-loved French Riviera

who have seen numbers fall from 8.5 million in 1985 to 7.8 million last year, despite predictions that the ten million mark would be passed before the end of the century. At the same time, the number of

French holidaymakers to the less crowded and cheaper Atlantic coast resorts has risen by 10 per cent in ten years.

Studies commissioned by the local hotels syndicate have identified visitors' dissatisfaction

with high pollution, endless traffic jams and overbuilding. Some complained of high prices and surliness in shops and restaurants. Local officials insist their efforts to clean beaches and tackle envi-

ronmental problems have not received the credit they deserve. They are now backing a regeneration plan to include a public parks programme and a publicity campaign for the region's 30 museums.

Airlines told to cut fares

By STEVE KEENAN

AIRLINES, including British Airways, could face legal action to force them to reduce some European air fares.

Neil Kinnock, the European Union Transport Commissioner, is to publish a report in July which is expected to threaten action against carriers which dominate a particular route and tacitly agree to keep fares high.

A number of low-cost airlines are planning to start up in competition with the major carriers on heavily used routes, when a total open skies policy comes into force in April 1997. Fares are then expected to fall. But Philip Lowe, a senior aide to Mr Kinnock, said that where two airlines share a route, there has so far been "total inertia" in bringing down fares.

The report is expected to recommend that an investigation should be launched by the EU's competition secretariat later this year. "It is something that is going to be addressed and we may call for specific action from our competition colleagues on abuses in certain places on certain fares," said Mr Lowe.

According to an American Express survey, the most expensive route in Europe is Geneva-Brussels, with business-class tickets costing £622 return.

The two airlines that serve the route are Sabena and Swissair, which recently marked the first anniversary of a marketing partnership.

On a cost-per-mile basis, the London-Istanbul route, which is operated only by British Airways and Turkish Airlines, is among the most expensive, at £608 return for a fully flexible economy ticket.

British Midland will also unveil a report next month which highlights fares on "duopoly" routes such as Heathrow-Rome — shared by BA and Alitalia — where the lowest return fares are £406 business class and £160 economy.

On the London-Geneva route, the lowest quoted fare from Swissair or BA at present is £386 business class and £99 economy. But on London-Zurich, a slightly longer journey where BMI now competes, fares have fallen to £286 and £89 respectively.

Councils put stop to signs

TOURISTS are being prevented from finding their hotels or campsites because local councillors are refusing to allow new directional signs, *Harvey Elliott writes.*

Legislation introduced at the beginning of the year means that hotels, restaurants and other forms of accommodation can erect specially designed brown-on-white signs for foreign and British visitors.

But a survey of members of the British Hospitality Association shows that although hundreds of members have applied for permission to erect the signs, hardly any have been given the go-ahead.

"The situation is so serious that we are taking it up at the highest level," says Jeremy Logie, chief executive of the BHA. "In some cases, the refusals are due to the delay by the local Highways Authority in formulating its policy under the new regulations. In others, it appears, there is intransigent opposition at local level to

any relaxation of the regulations."

The survey shows that of the applications made so far, almost half are still being processed, a third have been rejected out of hand and the remainder appear to have ground to a halt.

Tourists on the Continent are guided to local hotels and restaurants by a series of clear directional signs. But in Britain only major tourist attractions with more than 150,000 visitors a year were allowed to use them. Temporary signs put up by the AA or newly opened hotels have to be taken down after at most six weeks.

The Government agreed that the new signs could be used from April this year.

"It was a way of saying that the needs of visitors should be central to local authorities' formulation of policy," says Mr Logie. "But they are as intransigent as ever."

"One member complained that he was told there were 'too many hotels to signpost'."

TRAVEL NOTES

God save our gracious bobbies

FOREIGN visitors now regard London's best policemen, rather than the Queen and the rest of the Royal Family, as the true symbols of the capital, according to a new survey.

Some 36 per cent of the 1,000 foreign tourists questioned in London for the credit card company Visa said that the helmeted "bobby" symbolised London, while only 29 per cent automatically mentioned the Queen, 15 per cent said the Princess of Wales and 12 per cent "the typical pin-stripe suited English gent".

The Royal Family rates only slightly ahead of working as an au pair and just behind learning English as the main reason for coming to London — and even Covent Garden is ahead of Buckingham Palace as the favourite spot to visit.

The Royal Family was named by only 1.4 per cent of those questioned as the reason for their trip.

Name game

NOVEL and eye-catching company names have started to proliferate throughout the travel industry — all legally registered to prevent anyone from copying them.

Flying Colours is a new charter airline that will operate a fleet of four Boeing 757 twin jets to carry Club 18-30 and Sunset Holiday passengers to resorts in the Mediterranean and America.

The entrepreneur Franco Mancassola has formally registered his new airline — Debonair. He plans to fly British Aerospace 146 four-engined jets, the first of which is already registered in the airline's name, on scheduled services from Luton to the main cities in Europe.

Finally, Sandals Resorts has formally registered the name Weddingmoon as a trademark with which to market itself to the growing number of couples who combine a wedding ceremony with a honeymoon at its resorts.

Czech-in

PRAGUE, Venice, Budapest and Rome have all moved up the "Top Cities" league table of favourite short-break destinations, says Crystal Cities.

Paris, Amsterdam and Dublin remain firmly in the top three places in the table but the latest news is that Prague has jumped to fourth spot, ousting New York which has dropped to eighth.

True blue

EURO-SCEPTICS who hate having to show the new burgundy-coloured Euro/British passport can now buy a separate cover which looks, at first glance, almost like the blue-and-gold cover of the old document. All perfectly legal, apparently, and costing £5.50 or £6.50 from Opal Options (0118-958 8111).

Big problem

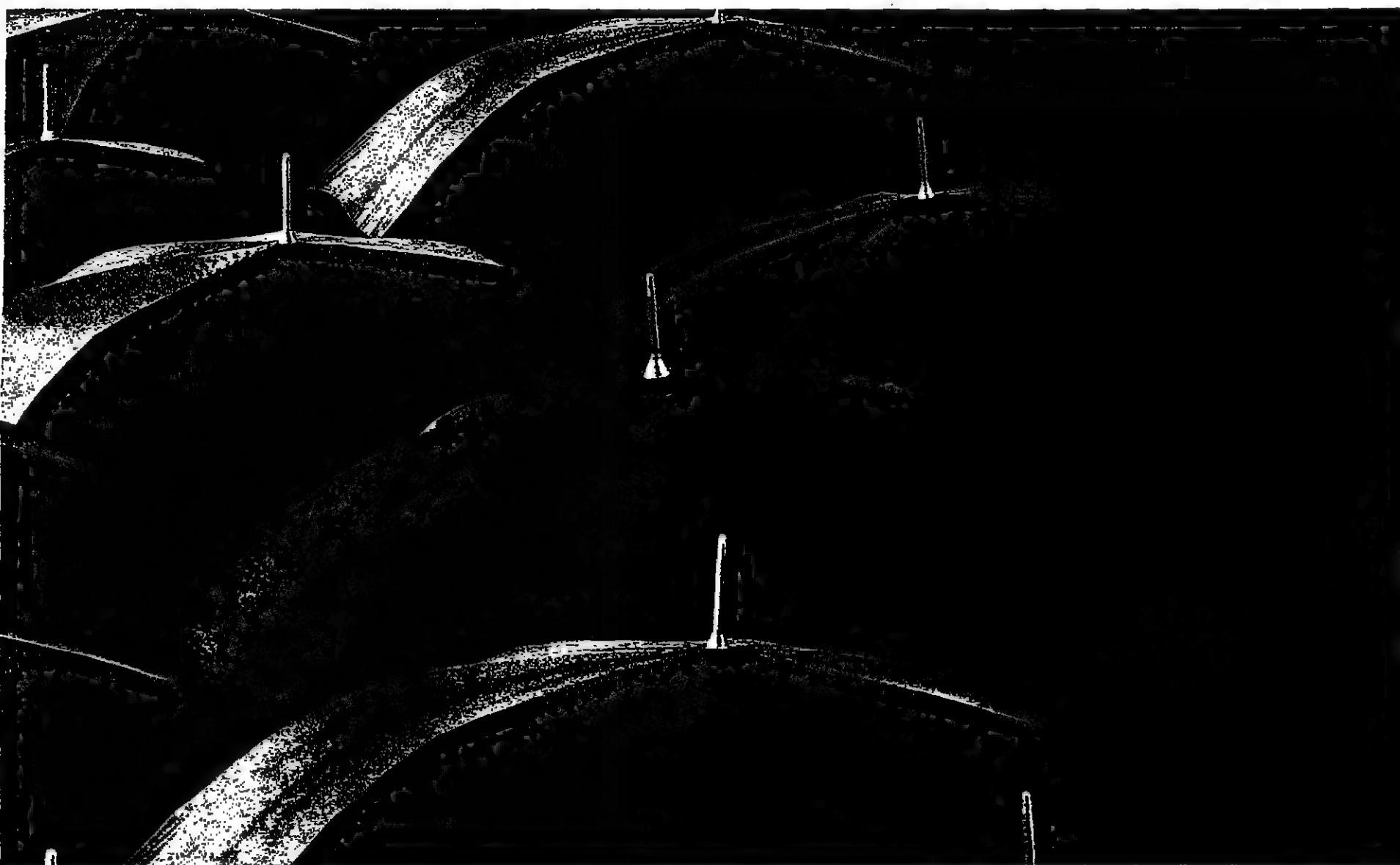
THE benefits from the use of much larger passenger aircraft may not be as great as were first thought, according to the Airports Council International. The jets, capable of carrying more than 600 people, will have to be separated further from each other on take-off and landing, taxiways will have to be widened and departure lounges extended at an average cost of about £70 million per international airport.

Vacuum healer

A VACUUM mini-pump which was developed to enable the French armed special forces and the aid agency Médecins sans Frontières to remove insect stings or snake venom is now being offered to British holidaymakers.

Aspivenin, the manufacturers, says it will be of particular help to people who are especially allergic to stings. Aspivenin costs £12.49 from larger Boots stores.

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Bank entitled only to simple interest

Justification defence not available

Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale v Islington London Borough Council
Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Woolf and Lord Lloyd of Berwick [Speeches May 22]

Where an interest rate swap agreement between the defendant council and the plaintiff bank had been held void as being beyond the council's powers, and the bank had recovered the balance of the sum due, it was entitled only to simple interest on that sum from the date of accrual of its cause of action and not compound interest.

The House of Lords (Lord Goff and Lord Woolf dissenting), departing from *Stirling v Brougham* [1914] AC 398, allowed an appeal by Islington London Borough Council from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Leggatt and Lord Justice Kennedy) (The Times December 30, 1993; [1994] 1 WLR 938), which had dismissed an appeal by the council from Mr Justice Hobhouse (The Times February 23, 1993; [1993] 1 LGR 323), who had awarded Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale compound interest.

The Court of Appeal also allowed a cross-appeal by the bank from the judge's decision that the interest should run from April 1, 1980 and had held that it should run from the date of accrual of the cause of action.

Mr Trevor Phillips, QC and Mr Brian Doores for the council; Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr George Leggatt for the bank.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that in the last decade many local authorities had entered into interest rate swap agreements with banks and other finance houses.

Such an agreement was one by which each party agreed to pay the other on a specified date or dates an amount calculated by reference to the interest that would have accrued over a given period on a notional principal sum.

The rate of interest payable by each party was different: one was usually fixed and the other was a variable or floating rate based on a fluctuating rate such as the six-month London inter-bank offered rate ("LIBOR"). Normally, the parties did not make the actual payments they had contracted for; the party owing the higher amount paid the difference to the other.

The arrangement between the council and the bank, concluded on June 16, 1987, was to run for 10 years from June 18, 1987. The interest sums were to be calculated on a notional principal sum of £25 million and to be payable half-yearly. The bank was to be the fixed rate payer at 7.5 per cent per annum and the council was to be the floating rate payer at the six-month LIBOR rate.

In addition, the bank was to pay the council on June 18, 1987 a sum of £25 million which payment had been made. As a result of the provision of that upfront payment the interest rate payable by the bank was lower than the 9.43 per cent that would otherwise have been appropriate.

Payments had been made by the council under the agreement as a result of which that made by the bank to the council (£25 million) exceeded those made by the council to the bank by £1,455,255.93.

It was of central importance to note the way in which the council had dealt with the upfront payment. It had been credited to a bank account of the council in which there were other moneys of the council, that was, into a mixed account.

That account had become overdrawn overnight on several dates in June and July 1987. There was an overall debit balance on it on November 16, 1987. The moneys in the mixed account had been used by the council for its general expenditure.

If the upfront payment had not been received, the council would have had to borrow more money if it was to be in the future, rate-capped, and one of the attractions to it in the swap agreement had been that it obtained the upfront payment in a form that did not attract statutory controls.

On November 1, 1989, the Queen's Bench Divisional Court in *Hazell v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council* [1992] 2 QB 691 had given judgment declaring void swap transactions entered into by local authorities. The House of Lords (1992) 2 AC 1 had held that such contracts were ultra vires local authorities and therefore void.

The Court of Appeal had held that the bank was entitled to recover the balance of £1,455,255.93 as loan money and was likely to be in the future, rate-capped, and one of the attractions to it in the swap agreement had been that it obtained the upfront payment in a form that did not attract statutory controls.

It had further held the council liable to pay compound interest on the balance from time to time until January 1991, when he returned to Iraq on leave. He was still in Iraq when the allies invaded Kuwait on February 26, 1991.

The plaintiff had never returned to Kuwait because Kuwait had banned Iraqi nationals and because the Iraqi government forbade its nationals to leave Iraq without permission. He had come to London as part of an officially authorised delegation in July 1992, and had then instructed solicitors.

A writ was issued on September 24, 1992 and a statement of claim on February 12, 1993. The defendants had objected to jurisdiction. On August 3, 1994 the master had dismissed their application for a stay but on appeal the judge had granted the stay, on the basis that the dispute should be decided by the Kuwaiti courts.

The judge had held that at the date of the hearing before him Kuwait was an alternative forum available to the plaintiff, though it had not been so available at the time of issue of the writ and possibly not when the application was made in February 1993. The judge had held he should be concerned solely with the position at the time of the hearing.

He had found that the plaintiff's objections were not made out. Those were that he had difficulty instructing Kuwaiti lawyers, he could not himself attend a hearing in Kuwait and he feared that his claim would not be fairly dealt with by a Kuwaiti court.

Mr Nathan maintained the judge had misdirected himself. He had been wrong to have regard solely to the situation at the time of the hearing, had asked himself the wrong question about specific matters, namely whether any of them raised insurmountable barriers.

Miss Cars-Frisk maintained that the decision process fell into two stages: *Spiliada Maritime Corporation v Cansulex Ltd* [1987] AC 460. The first stage required the defendant to prove that Kuwait was or had been an alternative jurisdiction which was available to the plaintiff, meaning "available as of right". No question of justice or substantial justice arose at that stage.

The second stage required the plaintiff to raise and prove specific disadvantages of having the case heard in the alternative jurisdiction. It was only at that stage, Miss Cars-Frisk submitted, that notions of justice arose. The important distinction was that the plaintiff bore the burden of proof.

In his Lordship's view the judge was correct to define "available" as meaning "available in practice" to this plaintiff to have his dispute resolved. The question whether substantial justice was likely to be achieved was relevant to that issue.

Although the judge had found that probabilities meant that individual factual issues had to be identified, if the evidence on those issues was equally balanced, or if there was no evidence overall, the defendant had to satisfy the court that there was an alternative forum available to the plaintiff, and more appropriate for the fair resolution of the dispute.

If the plaintiff asserted that even so there was some additional reason why in the interests of justice and between the parties the case should be heard in the alternative jurisdiction, that was a matter for the court.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in dismissing an appeal by Peter James Gilbert Barr against his conviction in May 1995 at Bristol Crown Court (Mr Recorder Robin A. Miller and a jury) of burglary for which he was sentenced to 30 months community service.

Mr Robert Duval, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellant, Mr P. D. C.

was not only with the law as it stood but with the principled development of it. Applying conventional principles of resulting trust, the bank's claim must fail.

SINCLAIR v BROUGHAM was a bewildering authority: no single ratio decidendi could be detected; all the reasoning was open to serious objection; it had only been intended to deal with cases where there were no trade creditors in competition; and the reasoning was incapable of application where there were such creditors.

The House of Lords should now unequivocally and finally reject the concept that the claim for money had and received was based on an implied contract. His Lordship would overrule *Sinclair v Brougham* on that point.

The decision as to rights in rem in it should also be overruled, although their Lordships should not be taken to be casting any doubt on the principles of tracing as established in *Re Diplock* [1968] 1 Ch 266.

LORD GOFF and **LORD WOOLF** considered that compound interest should be awarded on the ground that equity could act in aid of the common law. His Lordship fully associated the strength of the bank's moral claim to receive full restitution, including compound interest, but it would not be right to develop the law as proposed.

Parliament had twice since 1934 considered what interest should be awarded on common law claims. Both section 3(1) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934 and its successor, section 35A of the 1981 Act, made it clear that the award of compound interest was not authorised.

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FILM 1

A Midwest kidnap tale treated with mordant humour. *Fargo* is the Coen brothers' best movie yet



FILM 2

A script from Tarantino, and gore by the bucket, but *From Dusk Till Dawn* proves to be immature mayhem

THE TIMES
ARTS



FILM 3

Bohemian Paris in the 1940s is evoked in the stylish *My Life and Times with Antonin Artaud*



FILM 4

Robert Lepage dips into his own past for the plot of his first movie, *The Confessional*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown reviews 'the best American film of the year so far', the Cannes award-winning thriller, *Fargo*

Coen brothers come close to great outdoors

As the film begins, a dense, all-white screen is slowly transformed into snow particles falling heavily. Suddenly a car breaks through the fuzz, crossing the flat terrain. A signpost identifies the locale, on the border of Minnesota and North Dakota. Previous Coen brothers films such as *The Hudsucker Proxy* give the sense of being hand-tooled in a studio light years away from ordinary life; but, right from the beginning, the magnificent *Fargo* has that beauty and urgency that can only come from exposure to the real world.

Joel and Ethan Coen know this world, too. They grew up in suburban Minneapolis. They know the Midwest winters. They know the state's Scandinavian stock, the peculiar speech inflections, the laconic tone, the ability of men to stand still, immersed in parkas, talking politely about nothing. "Okey-dokey, thanks a bunch!" says Frances McDormand's heavily pregnant police chief, investigating her first homicide. "Oh geez!" cries the lined, rubber face of William H. Macy, the hapless car salesman whose bizarre plan to wipe out his debts sets the plot in motion. And almost everyone says "Yah" rather than "Yes". This is not mocking caricature; this is affectionate parody.

No previous film from the Coen brothers has contained such human characters, or shown such moral concern over acts of violence. The themes that *Fargo* touches on — greed, duplicity, the bizarre workings of fate — can be traced back to the team's first feature, *Blood Simple*. But now the masters of genre pastiche have more than puppets to deal with and, as Steve Buscemi and Peter Stormare's blundering thugs leave a trail of blood smeared across the snow, we feel both the pain and the dark hilarity of a kidnapping wheeze gone horribly wrong.

"It's real sound, it's all worked out," Macy tells his hired accomplices. Arranging

Fargo
Warner West End
18, 97 mins
The Coen brothers strike cinematic gold in the Midwest
From Dusk Till Dawn
Odeon West End
18, 107 mins
Juvenile romp with cult credentials
My Life and Times with Antonin Artaud
ICA Cinema, 90 mins
Poets, drugs and Left Bank cafes

for his own wife's kidnapping in order to extract a fat ransom from her wealthy father can scarcely be called "real sound"; and much of the film's pleasure lies in watching Macy's small-town jerk struggling ahead with his scheme even when it collapses underneath him. It is a wonderful comic performance from an actor most familiar from David Mamet movies.

The heart of the film, though, lies with McDormand (off-screen, she is Joel Coen's wife). Her police chief Marge Gunderson emerges from a domestic cocoon to face the snow, the blood and the heinous crimes; and the contentment with which she faces life helps to put the characters' nastier activities in perspective. Slow but shrewd, she waddles deliciously through the clues, mistress of the deadpan remark or the seemingly innocent question.

Joel Coen, who won the Cannes Film Festival's Best Director award, shows masterful control over the images, and encourages British cinematographer Roger Deakins to find eerie beauty even in a snow-capped parking lot, criss-crossed by shadows from the wintry sun.

The opening title pronounces bluntly that "This is a true story" and identifies the



"Mistress of the deadpan remark or the seemingly innocent question": Frances McDormand as the police chief investigating her first homicide in *Fargo*

year, 1987, when the events occurred. But no film could be further from the shallow realism of most movie dramas ripped from life. In the Coens' deft hands, we stare at the world and its people afresh. Warm, dark, grotesque and beautiful all at once, this is the year's best American movie to date.

Where *Fargo* is perfectly poised, *From Dusk Till Dawn* is pure hurly-burly, hurled at the screen by two cult talents, Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino, determined to have fun. Tarantino's script was originally written in 1990 for a special effects company which wanted to showcase goo and gore. So Tarantino gathered his characters — two gangster brothers and a preacher's family, taken hostage — and sent them off for a rendezvous at a sleazy Mexican bar. This turned out to be a vampire hang-out. Necks got bitten, heads cut off. Glop oozed everywhere.

The script lay idle until Tarantino zoomed into the stratosphere. Then the project was reactivated and assigned to another fashionable director, Rodriguez. Tarantino rewrote his juvenilia, and stayed to act: that's him behind the glasses, the more psychotic of the Gecko brothers, the one who casually kills anyone in the way as they escape from their latest bank robbery. The other brother is George Clooney, the luminary from the TV series *ER* making a forceful bid for big screen stardom.

Obviously, this is not the work of mature artists. Tarantino and Rodriguez spatter childish jokes over the screen, gleefully ransack old movies, and switch genres at the drop of a hat, from road-movie thriller to vampire gore feast. Other big names roped into the romp include Harvey Keitel, uneasily cast as the preacher uncertain of his faith, and Juliette Lewis, the daughter on the receiving end of Tarantino's lust.

There is no finesse anywhere, and the makers' enthusiasm for expending their

talents on blatant trash will not be appreciated by all. You either give in to the outrageous, irreverent and lengthy mayhem, or you head for the exit.

If you were hosting an elegant dinner party, it would be best not to invite Antonin Artaud, poet, actor, theoretician and promoter of a Theatre of Cruelty. History suggests this: so does the absorbing French film *My Life and Times with Antonin Artaud*. At one point he says: "I'll take a knife and hammer and attack people. All I want is opium and grub." He means it, too.

But if Artaud would not make the best dinner guest, he makes a fascinating subject for a movie. Gérard Mordillat's film, attractively shot in crisp black and white and set in the mid-1940s, deals with the last months of the man's life. Released after nine years in a mental asylum, he haunts the Paris cafes in beret and scarf, returning at night to a nursing home.

A young, ambitious poet, Jacques Prevel, becomes his

acolyte. "All the opium in Paris must be at Artaud's disposal," Artaud grandly declares, "so he can finish his work." Prevel obliges, rounding up drugs from the capital's chemists. In place of a plot, the film sends these friends walking and talking, sometimes yelling, all over Paris, before cancer and drugs carry off Artaud in 1948. By that time Prevel is not the picture of health himself.

Mordillat has something of an Artaud obsession: besides this film, made in 1993, he has completed two documentaries on Artaud and his companion. Not that he showers us with facts: the strength of Sami Frey's riveting central performance is quite enough to pull us inside Artaud's soul.

The visuals have their own power. True, detail may not always be exact: these post-war bohemians travel on the Metro in modern trains. But Mordillat catches the smoky ambience of cafe life, the air thick with the fumes of idling intellects, and Marc Barbe's face has the right period cut as Prevel.

'A mediocre TV film at best'

Every week, young film fans discuss the new releases...

FARGO
Kerry Henderson, 18: Occasionally funny but slow-moving and hard to get into. A real letdown.
David Whipple, 22: Too slow and surprisingly lacking in the depths you would expect from the Coen brothers. Billed as a "real life" movie, it achieves its objective but fails to interest.
Rebecca Richards, 20: Realistic and well-acted drama, although the unusual events in the plot failed to evoke emotion. Generally enjoyable.
Tom Smith, 19: An appalling slow movie with no twists, plot, content or interest. This would be a mediocre TV movie at best.

FROM DUSK TILL DAWN
Kerry, Fantastic. A fast-moving thriller which suddenly becomes a vampire movie

MY LIFE AND TIMES WITH ANTONIN ARTAUD
Kerry: French films are either very funny or very painful. Unfortunately this particular one falls into the latter category. Strictly for aspiring intellectuals only.
David: This is the story of a young playwright's reduction into a drug-induced misery through his association with a tortured genius. Unfortunately, the only misery induced in this film is incurred by watching it. Not my cup of tea.
Rebecca: Depressing and monotonous drama that lacks focus and drive — it required all my stamina and patience to watch it through to the end. The acting was mediocre and it was difficult to appreciate Artaud's poetry and philosophy.
Tom: My first impression was how stylish this film looked. I found this biopic interesting, moving and informative. I was left wanting to know more about the man.



DEGAS: BEYOND IMPRESSIONISM — DAY SIX

Richard Cork continues his guide to highlights of the current exhibition at the National Gallery



"In the same way that the maid cleanses her mistress, so Degas aimed at purging his art of all superfluities": *Woman at her bath*, c.1893-98. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

Degas preferred to avoid showing his bathers immersed in the tub. This was because he wanted to concentrate on the figure itself, unimpeded by water. So even in this picture, where the woman is engaged in the business of washing, she remains seated on the end of the bath. The pose enables Degas to emphasise the fullness of her buttocks with a sculptor's sense of rounded form.

But there is muscular tension, too, in the way her back leans forward over the water. Steadying herself with one hand on the side of the bath, she holds her hair up with the other as the maid pours water over the newly exposed part of her shoulders.

It is a simple enough act, but Degas heightens the meaning of the scene by

various means. The drapes hanging above the bath give the picture an overwhelming sense of richness, and the light from below casts a glow on the front of the woman's body, burnishing it.

So the pouring of the water is charged with additional significance, suggesting that Degas may have seen it as a symbol of pictorial purification. In the same way that the maid cleanses her mistress, so Degas aimed in his later years at purging his art of all superfluities and concentrating on essentials alone.

● Degas: Beyond Impressionism is at the National Gallery until Aug 26 (tickets from First Call, 0171-420 0000)
● Tomorrow, Richard Cork discusses *After the bath: woman drying herself* (c.1894-96)

The autobiographer turns the page

Denis Arcand's film *Jesus of Montreal* used a crucifixion play to polarise the clash between conservatives and radicals which is the permanent bane of Quebec. Among its fictional actors there were confrontations too, of which one was memorable: a haunted, paranoid Christ versus a cynically laconic Pilate. Christ was played by Lothaire Bluteau, and Pilate by Robert Lepage. Off-screen they got on well enough, but when the film was over they went their separate ways.

Lepage had just taken over the reins of the Toronto-based Théâtre de Repère, the Canadian counterpart to the National Theatre, and was getting into his stride with the sequence of surreal dramas which have since made him famous.

Bluteau, meanwhile, became a wanderer. He won plaudits in London as an ecstatic, self-immolatory murderer in a play called *Being At Home with Claude*. He starred in Barrie Keeffe's Falklands play *Gotcha*, and in Bruce Beresford's Algonquin-Indian epic *The Black Robe*. He played a Mongol in Sally Potter's *Orlando* and a publisher of intellectual porn in Mary Harron's *Shot Andy Warhol*.

Meeting him on one of his stints in London, I found myself wondering why he had never starred in Lepage's productions. They may have been on different sides in the secession debate — Lepage a passionate Quebec separatist and Bluteau a passionate integrationist — but, onstage, Bluteau radiated the unworldliness which was Lepage's keynote. Furthermore, Bluteau is a twin — and twins, or alter egos, are one of Lepage's

Multi-disciplined Robert Lepage tells Michael Church about *The Confessional*, his first film as a director



"The Confessional is my experiment in storytelling," says Canada's Robert Lepage

obsessions. Artistically, they were peas in a pod.

Next week, Lepage's film *The Confessional* opens in London, starring Lothaire Bluteau. It's about brothers, alter egos, suicides, and the fusion of orient and occident: Lepage's perennial themes, with a murky top-spin giving full scope to Bluteau's gift for dramatic paranoia. The plot juxtaposes the Quebec of 1952 with the Quebec of 1989; Hitchcock's murder-mystery *Confession* — filmed there in 1952 — is the cinematic link for a rumination on ecclesiastical corruption then and now.

Like everything else Lepage has done, it's autobiographi-

cal. He has even cast his own middle-aged sister as the story's archetypal aunt-figure. "The casting agency couldn't understand the sort of person I was after, but she knew exactly," Lepage says.

The Confessional is his first shot at film direction, and he's engagingly diffident about it. "I needed coaching all the way, and I don't think I've yet found my cinematic style." Some sequences recall the work of that other autobiographer Terence Davies, but they never settle for his smooth, lyrical line: Lepage plays with ideas in a spirit much closer to that of his hero Cocteau. Hitchcock is not a

hero, but he has borrowed from him: "I have tried to be Hitchcockian in the way I deal with the logic of images."

Theatre directors who make the jump into film often complain about its impersonality, but for Lepage, "a film is a more personal form of expression, more intimately revealing. A stage show is a collective process, and acquires a life and a momentum of its own. Even if you have conceived it and are acting in it, you feel, finally, that it can do without you. But a film depends on your decisions at every moment of its existence. For me, this has completely changed the rules of narrative.

The Confessional is my experiment in storytelling," says Canada's Robert Lepage.

His stage background did come in handy. "Film people regard those of us who have come from the theatre as clumsy and over-literal, but I regard film people as ludicrously hooked on waste. 'We'll take care of that in the cutting room,' they say, or 'We'll do that in the lab.'"

"I've done things on the spot — fade-sequences which they told me were impossible — simply by using good old theatrical lights, and getting my actors to crawl across the set, below the sight-line of the cameras."

One by-product of his new approach to narrative is *Elsinore*, the one-man version of *Hamlet* he is bringing to the Edinburgh Festival. "This is my first shot at *Hamlet*, and I'll certainly come back to it in another way. I didn't want to inflict my notions on other actors, this first time round."

Lepage has just finished shooting *Polygraphe*, his second film, to be unveiled at the Venice Film Festival in October. This may sound mathematical, but is actually lurid in the extreme: a reworking of the autobiographical play he first produced ten years ago. One of his friends was murdered, and Lepage, himself a suspect, was cast by the police in their own bizarre dramatisation of what they thought had happened. The truth, when it emerged, was full of Chanderlesque coincidences.

Only to Lepage could such things happen: only Lepage could transmute them into drama.

● *The Confessional* opens in Britain next week
● *Elsinore* is at the Edinburgh Festival (King's Theatre) from August 12 to 16



CHOICE 1

Alan Bennett's
Habeas Corpus
is revived by
Sam Mendes

VENUE: In preview at
the Donmar Warehouse



CHOICE 2

Amanda Rocco
sings Mahler and
Beethoven with
the RPO

VENUE: Tonight at
the Barbican

THE TIMES
ARTS

VIDEOS

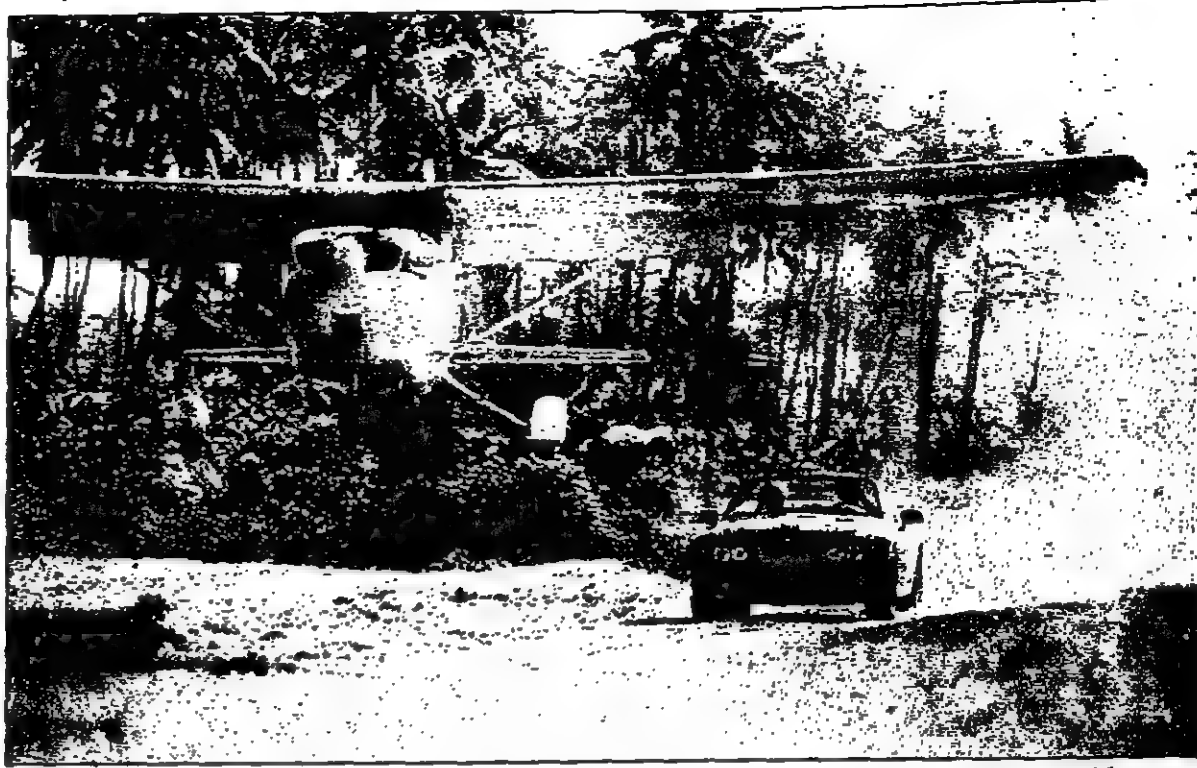
The best Bond
since Connery?
Pierce Brosnan
hits the small
screen in the
thrilling *Goldeneye*



RECORDS

... while, on
CD, Daniel
Barenboim takes
an uninhibited
approach to
Strauss's *Elektra*

Sparkle in a Goldeneye



Follow that plane: action-man Pierce Brosnan proves that James Bond can still cut the mustard in *Goldeneye*

NEW ON VIDEO

GOLDENEYE
MGM/UA, £2.95
HE MAY be a sexist, misogynist
dinosaur, but Ian Fleming's 007 can
still cut the mustard. Pierce Brosnan's
sardonic wit is crucial to the film's
success, so is the blend of affectionate
self-mockery and slam-bang action.
The plot is too distended, and Alan
Cumming's Russian computer geek
grates on the nerves, but after the
bracing, high-tech blockbusters of
Stallone, Schwarzenegger and Bruce
Willis, Bond's latest battle to save the
world from destruction appears almost
charming. Available to rent.

LE CRIME DE MONSIEUR

LE CRIME DE MONSIEUR
Lange
Cinecoeur, PG, 1935
JEAN RENOIR'S marvellously buoyant
film, infused with the spirit of the
Popular Front, concerns publishing
house workers who take over the
business in the absence of their
tyrannical and womanising boss (Jules
Berry). Jacques Prévert collaborated
with Renoir on the quietly nutty script;
together they ensure the revolutionary
process has never seemed so comic, so
governed by human frailties. The print
is prefaced with a five-minute intro-
duction by Renoir himself.

HEAVY
Artificial Eye, 15, 1995
SLOW, quiet and absorbing American
independent film about frustrated lives
from writer-director James Mangold.
The central character (Fruit Taylor) is
a pizza chef at a truckstop café in
upstate New York. He is fat and
depressively shy. For company there is
Mam (Shelley Winters), a world-weary
waitress (Deborah Harry) and a

college drop-out (Liv Tyler, subse-
quently picked by Bertolucci for his
new film *Stealing Beauty*). There is no
complicated plot: just some forlorn
people rubbing against each other.
Available to rent.

STRIKE!

STRIKE!
Tartan, PG, 1924
NO OTHER film better expresses the
artistic and political fervour of Russia
in the 1920s. Eisenstein's first feature
documents a factory strike with electrify-
ing élan. Montage, symbolism, cari-

cature: all his tricks are brought into
play. The print quality is reasonable,
though it is a pity that the translated
titles, many of them phrased like
revolutionary slogans, use bland mod-
ern lettering.

THE HORSEMAN ON THE

THE HORSEMAN ON THE
ROOF
Fox Guild, 15, 1995
AFTER *Cyano de Bergerac*, director
Jean-Paul Rappeneau now makes a
ravishing spectacle from Jean Glono's

novel of romance, heroism and cholera
in 1830s Provence. No cholera epidem-
ic in history has ever looked so lovely,
and the pictorial splendours drain
away some narrative energy. Olivier
Martinez cuts a stiff figure as the
Italian hussar who takes to the roofs
when panic-stricken townsfolk turn
hysterical; for the best scenes you must
wait for Juliette Binoche's enigmatic
noblewoman to appear. Available to
rent.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Puritan psalms; Adams weaves a dream; Elektra's animal passion

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

VARIOUS
Goostly Psalms
His Majesty's Clerks/Hillier
Harmonia Mundi
907128***

The severe gaze of a primitive
head from the 1709 gravestone of
the Rev Jonathan Pierpont
of Wakefield, Massachusetts,
transfixes the potential buyer
of this new and rare compilation
of Anglo-American
psalmody from 1550 to 1800.

These are the "plain tunes" of
Puritans, who left the
England of John Dowland to
settle in America.

Collections such as *The
Massachusetts Bay Psalm
Book* developed the English
cathedral style of Orlando
Gibbons and his contemporaries
into nicely rough
"fuguing tunes", word-painted
as naive as that on wood,
harmonic confrontations as
vigorous as their theological
counterparts in matters of sin
and death. Here is William
Billings of Boston and his

robust war song to the tune
Cherish; and here, too, is
Benjamin West's mournful
Watford and Abraham
Wood's gentle *Worcester*.
These psalm settings ring out
in fresh-faced performances.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

ADAMS
Violin Concerto; Shaker
Loops
Kremer/London Symphony
Orchestra/Nagano
Orchestra of St Luke's/
Adams
Nonesuch 7559-73360-2***

JOHN ADAMS has always
deployed minimalist tech-
niques with more imagination
than most. In his 1993 Violin
Concerto he leaves the strait-
jacket of repetitive ostinato
behind in favour of something
altogether more rewarding.
The Concerto was co-commissioned
by the New York City
Ballet and the dance impulse
is fundamental to it.

The first movement is
strongly propelled, with a

striding figure forming the
aural backdrop, against
which the solo violin dances
rhapsodically with virtuoso
abandon. In the second move-
ment, a chaconne, the violin
sings rather than dances: a
long cantilena is woven
through a haunting orchestral
texture. The subtitle of the
chaconne is "Body through
which the dream flows" — a
poetic image of the violin as a
dream passing through the
orchestral fabric. The finale is
a frenzied, Bachic organ, with
motoric synopses adding
drive. Gidon Kremer is as
alive to the poetic as to the
dynamic elements, and the
ensemble of the London Sym-
phony Orchestra under Kent
Nagano is invigoratingly taut.

Shaker Loops is an earlier
piece that began life in 1977 as
a quartet, being reworked first
as a septet and then for string
orchestra (as heard here).
Closer to traditional, 1970s-
style minimalism, *Shaker
Loops* is less inventive than the
Violin Concerto but is persua-
sively delivered by the Or-
chestra of St Luke's under the
composer's direction.

OPERA

John Higgins

STRAUSS
Elektra
Polaski/Marc Meier/Botha/
Struckmann/Berlin
Staatskapelle/Barenboim
Teldec 4509-99175-2

"A WILDCAT," claims one of
the palace maids when
Elektra makes her first ap-
pearance in Strauss's opera of
vengeance. Barenboim and
his lead soprano, Deborah
Polaski, take their cue from
the observation. Bestial be-
haviour, including Klytem-
nestra's parade of sacrificial
animals, runs through much
of the work and Barenboim
lets his Berlin players revel in
it. The howls which arise from
the orchestra, especially the
brass, make *The Rite of
Spring* sound like *The Teddy
Bears Picnic*.

Polaski adopts a similarly
uninhibited approach, throw-
ing herself into the music but
making sure that it is properly
sung, unlike some Elektras
who overdo the eldritch
shriek. Conductor and soprano
know precisely when to
unleash their climaxes in a
way to rattle the listener. And
they know how to handle the
Straussian calm which inevi-
tably follows. Elektra's monolo-
gue after the return of
Orestes is superbly handled, a
moment of serene rationality
before blood bursts out again
in the House of Atreus.

The partnership recalls that
of Solti and Nilsson 30 years
ago, still available on Decca.
But Barenboim's supporting
cast has less class, with the
exception of Waltraud Meier's
reception Klytemnestra. Ales-
andra Marc's Chrysothemis
sounds plummy and too placid;
she does not turn her
scenes with Elektra into real
confrontations. Falk Struck-
mann's Orestes is routine,
although admittedly it is an
unrewarding part. These
shortcomings just nudge an
otherwise thrilling set out of
the three-star bracket.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

LONDON

HABEAS CORPUS: Tardis cost for
the revival of Alan Bennett's
marvellously modern farce: Brenda
Blatney, Cole Inria, Imelda Staunton,
Jon Broadbent, Nicholas Woodson,
and Sam Mendes directing.

DOOM ON THE FLOOR: Ensemble
Mandel gives the world premiere
performances of Mark-Anthony
Turnage's *Doom on the Floor* — an
exploration of alienation and drug
addiction, in nine movements. With John
Scott, guitar, Peter Eakins, drums,
and Martin Robinson, saxophone.

MOZART DOUBLE: The Academy of
Ancient Music under Paul Goodwin
performs Mozart's comic miniature
The Impresario, with the soprano Judith
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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Gillian Maxey

Beethoven's exquisite concert sets *An
Afternoon with Beethoven* at the
Barbican, 5th Street, EC2 0171-638
8891. Tonight, 7.30pm. £2.

ELSEWHERE
BATH: Wells Cathedral provides a
subtly grand setting for an all-Russian
programme of emotional extremes.
Alexander Lashin conducts the
Philharmonia Orchestra in Rimsky-
Korsakov's *The Legend of the Invisible
City of Kitezh*, Stravinsky's *Symphony
of Festive and Patriotic* and Tchaikovsky's
No. 6 in minor, *Pathétique*. With the
Bath Festival Chorus under Nigel Paine.
Tonight, 7.30pm.

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The Impresario, with the soprano Judith
Howarth and Elizabeth Vane and a
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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment
of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

BARBICAN: The Library Theatre
Company's current season ends with
their production of William Shakes-
peare's *Antony and Cleopatra*.
Library, 5th Street, EC2 0171-638
8891. Tonight, 7.30pm. £2.

LONDON GALLERIES
Barbican: Eve Arnold (171-638 8891)
British Museum: *Painting and the
Word* (171-638 8891)
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THEATRE

Paula Wilcox and company find few laughs in an outdoor staging of *The Comedy of Errors*



POP

Life after Richey: the Manic Street Preachers strike a celebratory note at the Forum

THE TIMES ARTS



YOUNG ARTS

The famous traditions of Welsh choral singing are being passed to a new generation



RADIO

Yesterday in Parliament is a massive turn-off for listeners — but is it too important to drop?

THEATRE: Braving the weather, Kate Bassett finds few laughs in a Shakespearean comedy under the open sky

Double trouble does not bubble

Granted, Regent's Park is not the place to worry about chic. After all, I was wearing all my clothes at once for this opening night of the Open Air Theatre season (though, mercifully, no rain stopped play). And granted, too, *The Comedy of Errors* is essentially a romp: Shakespeare returned more probably to its central themes later in *Twelfth Night*.

Nevertheless, Ian Talbot's staging could surely suggest something a little more profound about people entering the realms of the irrational, escaping responsibilities, spawning dual identities. Ephesus, famed for its wizardry, needs to be less mundane, more of a land of madness and dreams, and the park's woody glade could be such a magical place. Outdoor theatre may not have great pretensions, but surely it can muster up better ensembles and a more coherent vision than here.

Either that, or the production needed to be much funnier. The play certainly has the potential. In Shakespeare's ancient port, a pair of spottish nuns toddle out and sunnily

chime the passing hours. "Bong, bong," they sing and assure the piazza "from on high" that "all's well in Ephesus". Down below, though, the lay-folk are in ever escalating chaos. It is bound to cause havoc when two sets of twins — identical masters plus matching servants — are suddenly popping up all over town without meeting each other face to face.

The normally respectable Adriana (Paula Wilcox with striking Greco-Roman features, arcing eyebrows and an alluring wink) is having more than a siesta with a chap who looks exactly like her hubby. At the same time, her legal spouse is hammering on his porch. Antipholus is being barred from his own atrium by a voice claiming to be his servant Dromio while the other Dromio does a metaphysical double-take. The mistaken identities mount up insanely. A courtesan is demanding her ring back. The jeweller wants his cash. The Dromio twins, zig-zagging between masters, are driving everyone round the twist.

The *Comedy of Errors* is chock-a-block with farcical mistakes, not to mention



Four pas in the park: Paula Wilcox, Peter Forbes and Gavin Muir in Ian Talbot's Open Air Theatre production of *The Comedy of Errors*

naughty four pas. But in this staging the two boys from Syracuse are simply not funny. The visiting Antipholus could be having a whale of a time. He is getting nookie with his brother's wife without having tied the knot, and is handed a precious necklace without footing the bill. David Cardy seems,

though, lamentably dreary. Even his ardour for Adriana's pretty sister (Debra Beaumont) is hardly a blaze. Meanwhile Cardy's manservant, Gavin Muir, is not a natural clown. Both Dromio brothers inevitably get end-less drubbings. Unfortunately the baffling sessions here are often too clumsily faked to get

much of a laugh. Oopsadaisy. Peter Forbes's resident Antipholus is relatively at home in his part, striding off to the local wheelhouse (albeit kitted out as if this involves a Victorian trek up the Amazon). He has a twinkle in his eye. Finding himself heading for the slammer, he roars rather pleasingly. Wilcox's

Adriana is classy and sparky. Judith Paris, as the Abbess who eventually reveals herself as mother of the Antipholus twins, is amusingly superior, rebuking her daughter-in-law for laxity and strictness in one breath.

Overall, however, this production is limp. Ephesus offers a bit of glitter, like gold-sprayed pot plants, but the comic chases are lacklustre. The local tradesmen are snarled in straw bowlers and tailcoats. But Adriana is the only lady with a decent wardrobe. The town fizzes look a mixed bag of Spanish gypsies and belly-dancers. Little here to warm the blood on a chilly night.

Lock up the House

RADIO 4 normally occupies the slot between 8.43am and 9am with *Yesterday in Parliament*, which means that people of a nervous disposition or those whose stomachs turn at listening to farmyard animals baying at each other tend to switch off.

Anything of importance that has happened in Parliament the day before is covered in *Today* and the BBC's charter duty to give an account of parliamentary business is discharged by *Today in Parliament* each night.

So *Yesterday in Parliament* is something of an anachronism and there are those within the BBC who would cheerfully bury it. A fringe benefit of dropping the show is the amusing prospect of an edition of *Yesterday in Parliament* dominated by MPs demanding that *Yesterday in Parliament* be reinstated.

There is a purpose to raising this matter during a parliamentary recess. Excellent little programmes consistently replace *Yesterday in Parliament* at such times and this week's *Sailing Alone Around the World* — readings from Joshua Slocum's book of that name — provides a fine example.

Slocum, born in 1844 and presumed lost at sea in about 1910, was the first great single-handed sailor and he wrote with insight and intelligence. Tuesday's account of a clash with pirates, from whom Slocum escaped because the pirate ship was disarmed by a rogue wave, was a superb evocation of the sea and of the thought processes which dominate a lone sailor's time.

Such programmes are also a perfect counterpoint to *Today's* weighty current affairs agenda for listeners preparing to face the day. In the case of the Slocum book, they provide literal proof that whatever may be lurking at the office, worse things happen at sea.

Clearly the BBC is unlikely to dump *Yesterday in Parliament* 12 months ahead of an election: the corporation will have enough paranoia to deal with without providing politicians with evidence that someone is trying to get at them. But the BBC should tough it out and politicians should secretly hope it succeeds. Not the least of the reasons why politicians are held in contempt is because they are heard, on *Yesterday in Parliament*, to behave in contemptible ways.

There is a case for *Today in Parliament*, already marginalised to long wave only, where those who want it can find it. But there is no case for inflicting *Yesterday in Parliament* (FM and long wave) on a largely begrudging audience.

The two programmes are known as "Yip" and "Yip" in BBC-speak. My advice, as Slocum might have put it, is to tip Yip overboard.

ANN SCANLON

PETER BARNARD

Sweet sanctity of Byrd song

CONCERT
I Fagiolini
Purcell Room

come under suspicion, and there is little doubt that the Latin motet became a means through which he could express his Catholic faith. Many of the texts he set draw on the Old Testament theme of the suffering of God's chosen people through persecution at the hands of their oppressors. The sub-text of the brilliantly conceived *Domine Tu Iurasti* or the highly expressive *Deus Venerunt Genes* clearly laments the situation of English Catholics.

I had not previously heard the latter, rarely performed work, and it is without doubt one of Byrd's most expressive pieces. Believed to have been written in response to the martyrdom of the Jesuit priest Edmund Campion in 1581, the text (drawn from Psalm 78), refers to the bodies of the Lord's servants having been "laid out as food for the birds of the air" — a grim meditation on Campion's fate (he was hanged, drawn and quartered). I Fagiolini brought out perfectly the balance between restraint and underlying passion in a powerful and compelling performance.

Indeed, throughout the evening the group responded with absolute conviction to Byrd's settings, from the

breadth and grandeur of *Antiphona* and the more concise, prayer-like *Domine Salva Nos*, to the urgency of *Vigiliae* and the jubilant *Laudibus in Sanctis*. "Authentic" Latin pronunciation (for example "vigilaytee") coloured the overall effect, but was never intrusive.

The singers were not afraid to bring out in a soloistic manner the more madrigalian elements of the music, but still more admirable was their feeling for the structure of each work and a sense of total ease with the demanding rhythmic interplay at the heart of much of Byrd's music.

This was also true of Sophie Yates's playing of some of the pieces from *My Lady Nevill's Book* on the virginals — an enticingly mellow-sounding instrument by Mark Ransom.

All in all, a very attractive programme that could not but enhance Byrd's standing as a great but still curiously neglected composer.

TESS KNIGHTON

Rich without Richey

POP
Manic Street Preachers
Forum, N5

ALTHOUGH the Manic Street Preachers recently played a few high-profile support slots to both the Stone Roses and Oasis, this was their first headline tour since the disappearance of guitarist Richey Edwards nearly 16 months ago.

Singer-guitarist James Dean Bradfield was completely fired up, moving around the stage as though he was trying to fill the void left by Edwards, playing off bassist Nicky Wire and drummer Sean Moore, while a keyboard player stood so far off to the left that his presence barely intruded on the rest of the band.

The early part of the set included *Australia*, from the new album *Everything Must Go*, which was recorded without Edwards and was largely written by Wire, but Edwards's presence hung over the show just as the ghost of

Black Flowers that Grow in the Sky, one of the last set of lyrics to be written by Edwards, and Bacharach-Edwards's *Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head*.

The rest of the band returned for *This is Yesterday*, *A Design for Life* and finally *You Love Us*, dedicated, among others, to Arthur Scargill, which made a nice change from the apolitical, or pro-Blair, stance of most of the Manics' contemporaries.

On the way out, someone enthused that it had been "like watching the Clash" — a bit of an exaggeration unless you can imagine the Clash playing to the Alarm's audience — but Bradfield's soulful punk howl, now worn deeper by bitter experience, definitely comes from Joe Strummer's side of the tracks.

ANN SCANLON

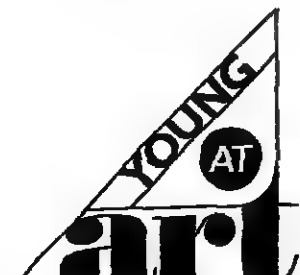
Hilary Finch journeys to Wales to find a touring youth choir, run on a shoestring, that turns no voice away

Bare ruined choirs. First it was the dissolution of the monasteries, then the disintegration of the chapel. On the Welsh skyline they stand, defiantly broad-backed, without spire or steeple, monuments to a Bible-black century of religious and cultural nonconformity. Some gape into the wind, windows broken, doors swinging. Others house the latest in Welsh installation art. And some few still sing.

A scarlet and green gallery, loud with young voices, sweeps round between the gilded Corinthian columns of the immaculately restored 1875 Tabernacle Chapel in Llanelli. Fifty years ago the adult choir of 180 would be visited by Dame Eva Turner, would take soprano Joan Hammond down the local coalmine, would be the first to hear Kathleen Ferrier's *Messiah*. Now the stained-glass grapes of Edom reverberate to the voices of 50 eight to 16-year-olds singing distinctly counter-reformatory repertoire: *Panis Angelicus*, *A Ceremony of Carols*, a Czech dance, *Maire's Wedding*, *The Mikado*, Johnny Bach.

Consonants are hard and bright, vowels vividly Welsh, male and female chest voices resonant in a blend fit to confound the current cath-

In tune with the land of song



Welsh songbirds: the Hywel Girls' Choir in full cry

dral debate. Fifty faces stare forward, mesmerised by the hawk-like eyes of John Hywel Williams, a dark, bearded Swenagali of the baton. At the piano, his wife Jean. Prowling up and down the mahogany aisles, son Jeremy, unofficial aisties, son Jeremy, unofficial musical bouncer, valet, road manager and interpreter: half the choir speak Welsh as their first language.

Williams père formed the Hywel Girls' Choir when he was still at school from the members of his own chapel youth club. The choir soon became independent and started touring, first to Holland, then to Czechoslovakia. It now claims to be the most widely travelled youth choir in Britain and has sheaves of A4 itineraries to prove it. The Hywel Boy Singers

joined the Hywel Girls' Choir six years ago: they retain two names, but sing as one mixed choir. There are still only ten boys out of 50 choristers, though. Strange, in this land of male-voiced choirs? "Well," says Williams, "all of that's really more about a night out away from the wife. It was

traditionally difficult for the mother to leave home. Now, though, singing is not seen as a waste of a male activity in Wales. Our boys don't want people to know they're in the choir, even if they'll sing their heads off at a rugby match." And those he keeps he loses when their voices break at 14.

So the search for membership continues. Nearly 3,000 choristers have passed through the choir since it was founded. It exists for all sorts and conditions, from hilltop detached to valleys terraced, from the so-called tone-deaf to the privately taught. Membership changes rapidly, and there is always a group of tiny, waisted probationers on hand to maintain momentum. There is no selection; Williams auditions only to discover if a child has a high or low voice, and no child is barred from touring through lack of finances — even though west Wales is not exactly a hotbed of corporate sponsorship.

With funding solely from raffles, collections, auctions and individual patrons, Williams finds commissioning new works impossible. Yet he needs them desperately. The search for repertoire is endless and often dispiriting. "Composers, particularly in Wales, are just not doing enough for young singers, for choirs with simple resources and yet a need for challenging music. If only the Urdd or the National Eisteddfod would commission music for young people." Britten, Gilbert and Sulli-

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Bold traveller in a dry season

Imogen Stubbs on one woman's adventure with the Rabari nomads of Rajasthan

One of my most embarrassing memories is of meeting David Lean and gushing, "Mr Lean — I can't tell you how much I admire *Laurence of Olivier*." Without a flicker he replied, "Arabia. Yes. And what in particular do you admire?" "Oh — the camel bit." "You see, I've always been crazy about camels and deserts..." Fortunately I was dragged away before I could go on to describe how our lorry was covered with *National Geographic* photos — in pride of place, a lone woman crossing Australia by camel.

I had always assumed I would become such an adventurer — then I discovered that I got panic attacks if I strayed outside a five-mile radius of Boots the Chemist.

So, instead, I turned to a vicarious way of seeing the world — travel writers — who, by recognising that to exist is to be perceived, give the rest of us wings to fly.

I already knew something of Robyn Davidson's work, but *Desert Places* is by far the most remarkable odyssey in which I've had the privilege to participate. It is a rawly receptive account of accompanying the Rabari nomads on their migratory cycle across the Thar desert in Rajasthan. It is so vivid and without residue that it had the heart distracted out of me from beginning to end.

Robyn Davidson first fell in love with the idea of travelling with the pastoral nomads in 1978, when she found herself in their midst at a camel fair in Pushkar. It was a romantic notion fuelled by visions of moonlit dunes, billowing robes the colour of sunsets, and a willingness "to surrender parts of what had originally formed me in exchange for the new perspectives offered by difference."

Her opportunity did not come until a decade later with a commission from *National Geographic*, but by then it had become a "moth-eaten vision" plagued by setbacks — mainly because of the grimly changing face of nomadism itself, changes due to a venal Government and the corrosive antagonism between the once symbiotic peripatetic and sedentary populations.

Eventually, in 1992, she managed to inculcate herself into a group in Gujarat. But instead of the unfettered independence of her dreams, she found herself encumbered with unwanted baggage and recalcitrant servants. The journey turns out to be "like reading *Tristram Shandy* —

endless digressions from where you thought you were going". And not romantic "Pressed against me the women blew snot out of their noses, spat and belched. There were a couple of men under the tarpaulin with us shivering with fever. Baby goats covered in sores drank from our water-pots and urinated on our mats."

She sleeps among 5,000 sheep; sits on snakes; drinks guinea-worm infested water; attends a wedding and ends up babysitting the groom (aged four); she endures sickness, public ablations, theft and near murder. Worst of all, she suffers the "sub-continental stare" — where "eyes peeled my flesh away". Eventually a sort of masochism in the guise of "an over-developed sense of responsibility to the magazine's needs not being fulfilled" becomes anger at writing "another useless artifact for Western consumption to adorn doctors' waiting rooms".

She discovers "Dusara desh, dusara loag" (different countries, different people). Not only does this deprive her of longed-for solitude, but she discovers incredible loneliness in companionship without a common language. Moreover, she is forced to realise that her need to communicate will always be with and via the culture that, in so many ways, she is attempting to disinherit. "Grey cranes lifted their trousers and stalked about in the water like English academics on some esoteric field trip."

Like the totemic beings of Aboriginal myth who wandered the continent in Dreamtime, she seems to be trying to sing everything that crosses her path into some interlinked meaning — the bewitching, soul-deceiving countryside, the magnanimous, rapacious nomads, and her own paradoxical self, enraged against India and yet "more in love with life than I had ever felt... Not for a moment did it allow relief from the discomforts of paradox. Not for a moment did it allow indifference."

But though language protects and recreates her experience, it also obfuscates and limits. However, by the end the writing gathers to some humble understanding that shines despatchingly over the dirt and hunger and hurt of centuries — cooing India into a place where the notion of country connotes utter belonging, where "being" eclipses "doing" and where tragedy and human greatness are somehow compatible.



A desert odyssey that reveals as much about the author as about the nomads she travelled with: Robyn Davidson (left) on the way to Jodhpur

Robyn Davidson is a ferociously good storyteller — capable of sharing everything from rage to heady experiences without the phronesis of those "oohing" and "aahing" travel writers who (to adapt Katherine Mansfield) never get further than warming the pot. "Feel the tea-pot. Is it not beautifully warm? Yes — but there ain't going to be no tea."

With Davidson you get deliciously sweet, milky tea, but you also get the whole scalding pot thrown down your gullet. I read much of *Desert Places* while I was in labour, and I can't help feeling — cliché though it is — that the extreme emotional and physical experience of her adventure was not dissimilar. During both there is a sense of spirituality, and continuity, and miracle — but also of loneliness, pain, rage, danger, squeamishness — "the horrible, marvellous strangeness of life".

To avoid pain altogether, of course, the solution is to "do" India with the equivalent of a mobile epidural — like the New Age movement who export India in the form of "vaporuous serenity" and message T-shirts: or the American who saw India from an air-conditioned bus and cooed, "The poor looked... so happy!" And the loss? Only what Seamus Heaney described as the power of experience to "catch the heart off guard — and blow it open".

A busy stage dominated by William the Great

Linda Colley

THE YOUNGER PITT
The Consuming Struggle

By John Ehrman
Constable, £35
ISBN 0 09 475540 X

his responses to sedition, political infighting and anti-slavery debates at home, and to an expanding empire and two major invasion threats abroad. There is simply an awful lot to absorb.

There is also the problem of Pitt himself. He was a man of massive reserve and family pride. His father, the great

war-leader Chatham, had immersed him in politics and the classics from his infancy, calling him "the Young Senator". "William the Great".

Bearer of a famous name and trained for the premier-ship like no other, he climbed to the top of the greasy pole in 1783 in his 24th year. The price of staying there for some 20 years was that he knew he must never look down — or too much within. His father had been sporadically mad. Various uncles and aunts and his niece were also unbalanced. So he kept away — not just from the scrutiny of others but also from self-scrutiny, leaving the historian few clues about his innermost workings.

Pitt was the only British Prime Minister ever to die a virgin.

But did he live or die a Tory? Ehrman is surely right to answer no. Pitt called himself a Whig. His personal commitment to the Anglican Church and to the monarchy was limited. He took a utilitarian view of traditional institutions, ruthlessly transforming them when necessary. In an ideal world, he thought that Tom Paine was right. He was conservative only in his conviction that an ideal world was unattainable and that property should be preserved. Only after his death was a renovated Tory party forged, with him as a crucial part of its mythology.

Ehrman probes the myths with caution and wisdom, but he does not entirely seek to escape them. He does not always face up to Pitt's ruthlessness. Nor does he examine what the mass of Britons — as distinct from the affluent — thought of him. Here are hundreds of thousands of words by a considerable historian. But not the last words.



Pragmatic Cruikshank drew Pitt as a weathercock in 1804

THERE is something rather magnificent in the achievement of Christopher Hill which is not fully captured even in the formal record of a remarkable career. Hill downplays his distinction: a Prize Fellowship of All Souls is omitted from his dust jacket biography and the mastership of Balliol takes its place beside a visiting professorship at Lancashire Polytechnic.

Hill is grand enough to record his assistant lecturer-ship at Cardiff, but even this lofty concession does not identify Hill's special quality. What is most splendid about Christopher Hill is defiance. In history as in politics, his stance is that of an heroic preference for justice over peace. In 1938 the cause of appeasement pleased the gods, but Caro sided with Stalin's Russia. In the 1950s Oxford historians were still blaming the Civil War on Archbishop Laud; Hill re-baptised it as a Marxist Rite of Passage, on a par with 1789 or 1917.

Such magnificent gestures may have been wrong; but all England's great historians

High Hill

Jonathan Clark

LIBERTY AGAINST THE LAW
Some 17th-Century Controversies

By Christopher Hill
Allan Lane, £25
ISBN 0 7139 9194 4

have been wrong at times, espousing some hopeless cause or too-audacious hypothesis but stamping their image on the viewpoint of their age. Lesser historians, timid or inhibited, aimed at correctness: Hill had wider ends to serve. He has served that cause with more profound influence on his time than any of his peers. Among the English Marxist historians, that galaxy of talent from the 1960s, Hill was and is a prince of academe.

Hill was often wrong. He depicted the events of the 1640s and 1650s as a climacter-

ic afterwards, everything was different. The Civil War was a clash between the forces of progress and the forces of reaction: despite the Restoration, progress won in the end. The Civil War was a bourgeois revolution made by the bourgeoisie (early Hill), or, if not, at least a revolution from which the bourgeoisie profited (later Hill).

Yet, in retrospect, we appreciate that Hill's achievement was not in the imposition of rigid formulae but in an extraordinarily liberating diversification of scholarship: Hill's English revolution was the most effervescent of all the "great" revolutions, and the most populated by believable men and women expressing fascinating, if strange, ideas.

Now that Marxism can no longer harm, the point is not to refute Hill but to appreciate him. Every scrap of his writing is to be treasured: every essay, every review overflows with historical skill. Every

part of his work includes the whole.

This collection of studies focuses on crime, and crime seen from the viewpoint of the ordinary man as social protest. This thesis is not new: its classic formulation was by E. P. Thompson 20 years ago. Nor am I more persuaded now than I was then: it strikes me as an *Alice in Wonderland* vision in which all the criminals are victims and all their victims become criminals. I am not persuaded that "the landless" were "the lawless". Court records show that the poor are the chief victims of crime, however much Hill's literary sources romanticise criminals as Robin Hoods. Yet this hardly seems to matter beside the learning and deftness with which Hill makes his theme so fascinating.

Retirement evidently means nothing to a man with a vocation: Hill continues in full spate. Others might be more concerned. Only a few years ago, English universities could still boast of a race of giants among historians in post, Hill among them. Do they still?

Prose on the edge of an abyss

IS HUMAN suffering necessary? "Indispensable," replies Pangloss in Voltaire's *Candide*. The rationalist answer has not changed in the two and a half centuries since the Lisbon earthquake inspired Voltaire's lampoon of Leibniz. The same unchanging logic — of Robespierre, of Lenin and Mao, of every once and future leader of all progressive mankind — rules the macrocosm of *The Foundation Pit*.

Like *Candide*, Platonov's novel is a plotless allegory of human striving. But where Voltaire's characters roam the globe in pursuit of happiness, the heroes of Platonov's parody of social construction must stay put as they dig for theirs. With all the pathos inherent in their chain-gang immobility, they believe they are laying the foundations of paradise.

The Lisbon disaster killed 30,000 people. The forced industrialisation of Russia, which began in 1928 and is the historical background of *The Foundation Pit*, left an estimated 15.2 million dead. Even if one considers Platonov's masterpiece merely as a *conte philosophique*, one may note that his model universe was more amply observed than Voltaire's. He was also a writer — perhaps the only writer to have advanced Russian prose beyond what had been achieved by Chekhov — not a philosopher in literary disguise.

In Russia he had been recognised by generations of clandestine readers long before his works were published, nearly all of them posthumously. Yet a kind of triple most now separates Platonov

Andrei Navrozov

THE FOUNDATION PIT

By Andrei Platonov
Harvill, £14.99
ISBN 1 85146 040 6

(1899-1951) from the English reader. One very modern pitfall is the commercialisation of Western literary culture, with its inflationary tendency to proclaim every book an enduring masterpiece. Inevitably, to claim for Platonov a pedigree of such peers as Voltaire and Chekhov is to compete with Jilly Cooper's blurb writers on unequal terms.

THE SECOND obstacle, much wider and deeper, is the optimistic rationalism which has distended Western thought since the 18th century. Panglossian leaders like Lenin may sometimes be derided, yet the rationalist malaise is deep in the bones of every educated European devoted to the principles of scientific and social progress. Deep down in every one of us is a little Lenin, and when Platonov holds up the looking glass where the monstrously logical conclusion of our enlightened beliefs is reflected, we would rather doubt his genius than acknowledge that it is ourselves that we see.

Platonov's genius is what keeps this fairy-tale mirror from cracking. His novel of 1929 is as much a miracle of language as a Wittgensteinian vision of the end of language. When men are reduced to the condition of dumb animals in the name of social progress, how do they behave? We may think we know the political answer from Orwell's nightmares. But how they communicate and reason we know only because Platonov has written *The Foundation Pit*.

It follows that the third obstacle before the reader of this, perhaps the greatest and certainly the last of the great Russian novels, is translation. The present version, by Robert Chandler and Geoffrey Smith, is inadequate and is, if anything, a step backwards from the first English translation by Thomas Whitney of 20 years ago.

The difficulty here is not merely the arcane totalitarianism in which the novel is written. What is required of the translator is the ability to inflect untold suffering, as Platonov's heroes do every time they speak, on language itself.

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Violet wanted to talk with the boys

Woodrow Wyatt on the shrewd mind of Asquith's daughter

Born in 1887 into a Liberal family, but not liberal enough to let Violet Asquith have a real education at a real school as her brothers had, she made up for it by learning fast from the brilliant family she lived in — which entered an upper-class social circle, to the dismay of her father's old nonconformist friends. That was on the advent of Margot Tennant, daughter of Sir Charles Tennant Bt, and second wife of her father, H. H. Asquith. His was a middle-class family; his father was a nonconformist wool spinner and weaver in Lancashire. Helen, his first wife, was the daughter of a Manchester GP who died when her daughter, Violet, was four.

Asquith's ascent to 10 Downing Street demonstrates that talent in Britain has always led to the top if there is the will and the ambition. Sir Robert Peel was the son of an enlightened calico printing manufacturer; Ramsay MacDonald was the illegitimate son of a ploughman but became Prime Minister four times, eventually yielding to the temptations of what Lord Passfield called "the aristocratic embrace", as did Violet, her brothers and her father.

Violet was a prodigious diarist and correspondent. She began her diary when she was 17; the facsimile of the first page shows large, legible writing embellished by an exuberant flourish. This weighty book runs merely to 1914; more will follow, up to her death in 1967. Never can anyone have collected and kept so many letters written and received. The first volume contains fascinating flashes of elegant life and entertaining among elevated Liberals, habits of grand houses and ballrooms.

She adored her father and his second wife, whom she thought of as her mother. Violet is referring to Margot's father in the diary entry on her first ball: "Grandpapa's necklace made me feel like a dowager." Roy Jenkins wrote a sympathetic and gripping biography of H. H. Asquith; he is comfortable with Liberals who glide serenely into public esteem. In his introduction to *Lantern Slides*, which nearly went off in his account of Asquith's private as well as public life, explodes. Violet read the manuscript of his book; Roy saw her afterwards. She protested too much in her reaction, furious at the suggestion that Venetia Stanley, one of her close friends, had a more than friendly relationship with her father. "It cannot be true. Venetia was so plain."

The photograph of Venetia and contemporary comment prove the opposite. In his book Roy Jenkins refers to Asquith's "great prime-ministerial infant-

LANTERN SLIDES
The Diaries and
Letters of Violet
Bonham-Carter,
1904-1914

Edited by Mark Bonham-Carter and Mark Pottle
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 51649 7

uation and epistolary romance (and maybe more) with a young woman called Venetia Stanley. For a while Venetia was besotted and it strains credulity to believe that their mutual love was never carnal. But as young girls grow older they often begin to prefer younger, less distinguished, men: poor Asquith suffered the agony of a jilted youth as gradually she lobbied him off.

When Violet was 18 she disposed of a young man in a more forthright manner. "Do you suppose I don't realise that you've said this dozens of times before to dozens of



Violet, as a girl, with her father

different people? Do you suppose you are pleasing me? If so you must think very very poorly of women in general and me in particular. I delight in you when you're talking to the boys but when you're with me I can't stand you." She is observant and shrewd, save when overcome by bursting love which prompts her to gush embarrassingly. Notwithstanding, there are hints of a political mind developing. The young Winston Churchill who enjoyed talking to her on political issues as an equal. Their close relationship survived his marriage to Clementine, about whose engagement to Winston she wrote to Venetia Stanley: "I had a very ecstatic letter from Clemmy saying all the suitable things. I wonder how stupid Winston thinks her."

This is a book to be dipped into, not to be read chronologically. There is charm and freshness dotted around throughout. But it would have been more pleasurable and instructive if there had been considerable pruning, cutting out half the pages. If this were done in the next volume I think it would reach a wider audience, particularly as it might be cheaper as well. One may not read all of *Lantern Slides*, but chunks of it are very satisfying.

Roger Scruton on a doctor's embrace of euthanasia: what are the implications of a licence to kill?

Modern medicine has brought relief and suffering in equal measure. While we are young and sturdy, it arms us against disease, nurses our injuries, and soothes our pains. When health begins to fail, however, it brings pain, loneliness and humiliation, as the futile battle with our common fate is fought and lost in every corner of the body.

The Dutch have devised a solution to this problem — legalised euthanasia. Dutch doctors now have the right to administer the kiss of death, on condition that the patient is terminally ill and consents to his own extinction. (But is that something that you can really consent to? Can you consent to that which removes the possibility of consent?) *Dancing with Mr D* tells the story of this new medical vocation.

Dr Keizer works in a hospice for the terminally ill. He is a lapsed Roman Catholic, whose remembered faith gives poignancy to his tales of dying. He sees his patients as people who were promised eternal life, and who may or may not know that the promise will never be honoured. Keizer also has a degree in philosophy from Nottingham University, quotes frequently from Wittgenstein, and shores up his scepticism with familiar arguments.

Convinced that life is all we have, and that nothing lies beyond the grave save infinite nothingness, Keizer takes comfort in the fact that there is nevertheless something that he, as a doctor, can give the dying, namely death. Yet he loves life, is fascinated by his fellow human beings, and has an eye for character and drama. It is a commonplace that death comes to all of us, and that we are equal at the last. But Keizer

Not mighty but mundane



Keizer's confrontation with mortality has older echoes: 18th-century engraving of the Dance of Death

shows that we are not equal at all — that there are as many ways of dying as there are kinds of human character.

Keizer's patients come from all walks of life, and bring to their last encounter contrasting stores of wisdom, emotion and memory. Keizer writes of their ends with wit and style. But the most remarkable feature of his book is the moral integrity of the writer, and the unforced good nature which causes him to respect the dignity of every patient, however troublesome, and however decayed.

DANCING WITH MR D

By Bert Keizer

Doubleday, £9.99

ISBN 0 385 40588 X

Respecting another's dignity does not mean deferring to him. The dignity of a criminal is respected by punishing him; the dignity of the selfish and the irresponsible is respected by reproving them. Dr Keizer pursues the more despicable of his charges to the very end with

his indignation; towards others he responds with an affectionate simplicity that is all the more remarkable in view of his professional stance of deep disillusion.

"It seems so rude to stare at a dead person, they can't stare back." "A dying person doesn't wrestle with death as Proust says, but with a cease in the sheets that makes him uncomfortable..." That is Keizer's style: frank, funny and scattered with epigrams. His descriptions of diseases express a sense that he too might at any moment fall victim to them: he searches his patients for the

What happened after the lady vanished

In the spring of 1937, Amelia Earhart set off with her navigator, Fred Noonan, to fly around the world. The flight was to have been the culmination of a remarkable career. Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic; the first person to fly alone from Honolulu to California. Her exploits, as well as her pixie face and mannish style, made her an icon of American derring-do: she was Kate Hepburn for real.

But Earhart and Noonan's plane vanished. Her disappearance was haunting, and the possibility of her survival hung in the national consciousness. This fine first novel gives Earhart's ghost a voice.

Jane Mendelsohn, a New Yorker, takes up where the facts leave off: the flyer and her drunken navigator land, intact, on a remote Pacific island. They were lost: the crash is Noonan's fault, he shouldn't have been drinking. They could not make contact with any other plane or ship: the crash is Earhart's fault, she wouldn't carry a heavy trailing wire for their radio. The story journeys from blame through desperation and recollection and into love. Slipping between the first and third person, between present and past, Mendelsohn makes her fictional Amelia Earhart a poignant synthesis of myth and humanity.

That it is not an original premise to put characters on a desert island in order to isolate

their reactions to their lives and to each other — the idea encompasses Defoe and Pynchon — does not matter. What matters is Mendelsohn's control over her material. She has imagined a woman who has built herself into exactly what she wanted to be ("As far back as she could remember, she always wanted to be a heroine") but also allowed herself to be built — by her husband, the publisher G. P. Putnam, and by her father, a failed tinkerer who instilled in his daughter a love of the beauty of machines.

The first half of the book presents us with this constructed image, the second, like a mechanic stripping down an engine, takes it apart. Stranded on their island, Earhart and Noonan spar and court. Her Lockheed Electra, emblem

of her personality, is stilled on a reef flat: she is forced to find inside of her another, earth-bound Amelia. Mendelsohn is not afraid of fable and symbol: she allows the electricity between her two characters to build until it is released in a storm of lightning and rain that drives them apart and then finally together. They let go of everything except each other. "The way of life is wonderful," she remembered. It is by abandonment."

Heroines die young. Mendelsohn's Earhart abandons her heroine self for a life that even she cannot destroy, despite a last, reckless flight in her beloved Electra. The writing is enraptured by the



Myth brought to life: Earhart, on the eve of her attempted flight around the world, with her Lockheed Electra (1937)

wonder of flight in a way that seems to belong to an earlier age — of Lindbergh or St-Exupéry — but is also immediately, insistently physical: "Her metal skeleton scrapes the atmosphere which seems to rupture as she passes, healing behind her as she passes, sucking her through again and again." Jane Mendelsohn has disentangled

the woman from the machine, the heroine from the human, and created an original and compelling romance of love and flight. The story was incredible to her, and for a moment it seemed as if everyone's story was fictional, as if all that was real were the bystanders, the people who told and retold the stories, not the characters themselves."

Erica Wagner

I WAS AMELIA
EARHART

By Jane Mendelsohn

Cape, £9.99

ISBN 0 224 04341 6

The father of revolutions

Jonathan Spence's enthralling biography of the cult leader who initiated the bloodiest civil war in human history both enhances our understanding of a key period in modern China's evolution and helps to explain why the country's rulers are so alarmed by signs that similar cultists are finding increasingly receptive audiences among Chinese peasants today.

In the mid-19th century, Hong Xiquan, who called himself the younger brother of Jesus Christ, launched a peasant revolt against the decaying Ching Dynasty. Within a couple of years, the once impoverished schoolteacher had gained control of a vast area of eastern China extending some 350 miles from north to south and a similar distance east to west. This he called his Heavenly Kingdom, with its Heavenly Capital in Nanking.

By the time the uprising was finally crushed in 1864 some 20 million people had died. During his 11 years as Heavenly King in Nanking, however, Hong had established a model for peasant rebellion that was studied and admired by later revolutionaries whose names are better known in the West than that of God's Chinese son, most notably Sun Yat-sen and Mao Tse-tung.

With the storyteller's art that has made him one of the best-known contemporary Chinese historians, Spence

describes the milieu in which Hong developed his often bizarre-sounding religious ideas. It was a China that was reluctantly beginning to open doors to the outside world after its defeat in the Opium War with Britain. With the foreign traders came missionaries who, much to the disapproval of the Ching Government, translated their Christian texts into Chinese and distributed them widely.

Hong, disappointed by his repeated failure to pass the examinations for the civil service, found inspiration in the foreigners' message. What he read convinced him that a vivid dream he had had while ill was in fact an encounter with God.

Spence does not attempt to draw parallels between the growth of the Taiping movement and the resurgence in today's China of millenarian sects, some of which draw on a similar mix of Christianity and folk religion. But the reader should bear in mind that there is much in Hong's attitude to the world around him and his dreams of divine grandeur that is strikingly familiar in the countryside of China under Deng Xiaoping. In January this year, a Chinese firing squad executed

Wu Yang-ming, the leader of a millenarian sect which operated clandestinely in much the same area as that once controlled by the Taipings. Wu claimed to be Jesus Christ and told his followers that he could save them from apocalyptic destruction, which he said would occur in the year 2000. His sect allegedly called for the overthrow of the Communist Party and the establishment of a new country with Wu as emperor.

The Chinese authorities called Wu's sect, which founded numerous cells in rural eastern China and had followers in several big cities around the country, the biggest group of "counter-revolutionary hoodlums" uncovered in China since the founding of the communist state in 1949. They accused Wu of rapping many of his female followers, as well as of "heresy".

To the authorities in Peking, reports of millenarian cult activity in the countryside are more than just the intriguing side-shows that they often seem to Western readers. The Taiping Rebellion may have inspired China's communist leaders in their revolutionary days, but now it haunts them. Official journals admit that party organisation is crum-

bling in the countryside as religious and clan forces grow rapidly in strength.

As the Peking magazine *Pursuit of Truth* put it recently, "some peasants who are party members have put the party's regulations at the back of their minds and have completely forgotten the pledges they made when they joined. Now they show utter devotion to religion and superstition."

The article ascribed this phenomenon to the "ideological confusion" caused by reform. Hong's Taipings flourished in the mid-19th century in an empire drained of its strength by corruption, where secret societies and bandit gangs controlled much of the countryside. Communist China today is still far more orderly than it was under the late Ching Dynasty, but the seeds of unrest are spreading as crime soars, corruption becomes ever more rampant, and millions of peasants roam the country in search of work. Spence's book helps us to understand how a seemingly odd-ball visionary can help such seeds to grow.

James Miles is the Hong Kong correspondent for the BBC World Service. His book, *The Legacy of Tiananmen: China in Disarray*, is published by The University of Michigan Press

Refuge from the troubles at home

TALES of the white man in Africa have prodded humanity for some time now. For this third novel, *Stone Kingdoms* (Phoenix House, £14.99, ISBN 1 897580 33 9), David Park has updated the genre, exporting earlier themes of trauma and reconciliation in Northern Ireland to a Rwanda-style regime. His narrator, Naomi, is a teacher, and her escape from the Troubles as an aid worker presents a blacker, less optimistic view of good intentions.

Naomi is complex enough for a start. The red-haired daughter of a Northern Irish Protestant minister, she has grown up in Donegal, an Ulster county which is part of the Republic. Her Orangeman father keeps her apart from the natives. Every summer he sets off to march in bowler hat and sash, displaying the same grim determination with which he swims in the Atlantic throughout the year. When he eventually abandons the struggle and allows himself to be swept away by the tide, the metaphors are inescapable.

His wife, too, is more emblematic than real. Her bemused smile at male obsession is presented as noble, but grates when replicated in her modern, university-educated daughter. Yet for all her sensitivity, Naomi is a product of the Me Generation.

She seems conscienceless when her presence in a desert relief camp causes bloodshed: there is no breast beating when she runs away with a woman refugee, abandoning her lover's dependent family to their fate.

Yet for all such contradictions, this is a rich and deeply thoughtful book. Park writes prose like a poet; and the invisible lines of national borders and tribal territory are etched into a text which rolls freely through time and place. Most strikingly, no matter how far these characters travel, television has gone before.

The question most repeated is "Why did you come here?" The traditional white man's answer implicitly remains, "To find myself." Certainly, Naomi's experiences confer personal freedoms. But her argument that the blundering relief agencies should pull out and leave the warring factions to work things out for themselves is never properly presented. Ironically, such a solution looks even more difficult when applied closer to home. Despite Park's sincere belief in the power of love, it is an adventure on which few inhabitants of his own Six Counties would be prepared to embark.

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Davies on course for careful drivers

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SOUTHERN PINES NORTH CAROLINA

NOBODY ever accused Babe Zaharias, as great a show-woman and publicist as she was a golfer, of thinking small. Before the US Women's Open Championship was even thought of, she came up with a great wheeze. "We'll put out the word that we're having a women's Open and that we're playing for \$10,000," she said. "That'll get everybody's attention."

It was an unheard of amount of money for a women's event and Zaharias had no intention of raising it. "None of you will be getting paid," she told the other players. Today, the 51st US Women's Open starts at Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club

is the prevention and detection of breast cancer in North Carolina. There is an advisory committee made up of the most influential women in the state and Jim Hunt, the Governor, has declared it "the week of the woman". They are taking the Open seriously.

So is Laura Davies, the champion in 1987. Davies, the world No 1, who is still thrilled after winning \$340,000 in a "skins" game in Texas last Sunday, recognises the importance of the Open. "The only time I play a practice round all year is the US Open," she said, "and I'm playing two of them."

Davies loves the course, which was opened in 1927 and designed by Donald Ross, an architect who eschewed trickery but is still making players think. "This is probably the best course I've played since I started coming to the Open in 1986," she said.

It measures only 6,207 yards, but it is playing long and the par is a demanding 70. Only the 1st and the 10th holes are par fives, but Davies can reach them both in two and described the course as "a massive succession of tough par fours".

The final five holes have been designated "tough" by everyone who has played them, but Davies will be trying to overpower them. She came to grief at The Broadmoor last year and had a poor Open as a result. "I tried to be too aggressive and it didn't work," she said. "I'll only be using my driver on a few holes because it's vital to keep the ball in the short stuff."

Annika Sorenstam, the defending champion, and Karrie Webb, of Australia, who leads the United States money-list and is playing in her first US Open, are experts at that. So are Meg Mallon, the champion in 1991, runner-up last year and winner of two events already this season, and Liselotte Neumann, the first Swede to win the title, in 1983.



Montgomerie, seen firing the ball in towards the green, will be trying yet another new putter in Germany.

Montgomerie awaits green light

FROM MEL WEBB IN HAMBURG

A PAUCITY of par-breaking putts of late has left Colin Montgomerie a frustrated golfer. He has been giving himself birdie chances by the basketful, but knows he has not taken nearly enough of them. Some might go to a coach to check on the stroke, others may raid the professional's shop and walk away with the latest in green machines. Montgomerie has no need to buy himself a new putter — he has more than you could shake a flagstick at.

Montgomerie, who appears in the Deutsche Bank Open that starts at Gut Kaden today, is something of an anorak when it comes to putters. He admitted yesterday to having more than 50 of them, and quite often takes a fistful along to tournaments.

They do not lay idle, either. Last weekend, he used a different one every day in the Volvo PGA Championship and still finished tied for seventh. The week before that,

he got extremely shirty with himself at the Benson and Hedges International with the greens tied for ninth. It must be dreadful to be so utterly awful at the game.

Montgomerie has a theory about his lapses on the emerald dance-floor. "Putting hasn't got a lot to do with golf and yet you hit half of your shots with your putter," he said. "In my case, rather more than half at the moment." Then, as though sharing a confidence with friends: "It's

not a technical thing, you know: it's all upstairs that the problems start." As he spoke, he tapped his cranium — anybody who has ever been visited by the yips, that awful, St Vitus's dance of a putting stroke, would identify readily.

Why, then, has he taken up with the new putter that he acquired a month or so ago and is going to use for the first time in competition this week? "I don't know, really," he said reflectively. "It's got a bit more loft, so I'm not hitting the ball into the ground so much, but

there's got nothing to do with it really — it's all in the mind."

"I also change putters too often. I used a different one every day at the Tournament Players' Championship in America earlier in the year, did the same at the Spanish Open last year and again at Wentworth last week."

So, after flitting with endless permutations (any four from 50 does give a more than reasonable degree of variety), might it be peace at last with the shortest club in his bag? "Yes," he said. "Definitely, yes. Perhaps I'll only take this one to the US Open with me next month." A likely story.

Finally, if things were to get really bad, he was asked, would he consider trying a broomhandle putter? "No, no, never," he said firmly. "I'd take up tennis before I'd use one of them." The feeling is that the Grand Canyon will freeze over before Montgomerie will succumb to the long job, or, for that matter, any sport that involves thinly-cut cucumber sandwiches with the crusts cut off.

Dwyer finds his stroke

PAUL DWYER knocked seven shots off his five-over-par morning round of 75 to return a 68 — the best round of the day — in the afternoon and became joint 36-hole leader in the Lagonda Trophy golf tournament at Gog Magog, Cambridge, yesterday. Dwyer, from Clitheroe, made his mark early in the second round, sinking a series of testing putts.

Also on 143 were David Quinney, of Haverhill, who looked impressive with rounds of 70 and 73, and Chris Smith, a Yorkshireman, with 72 and 71. The leading trio were followed by a group on 145, among them Robert McQuirk, of Sandwich, a semi-finalist in the 1995 English Amateur Championship, and Peter Fenton, a winner of the Brabazon Trophy.

Armstrong partners Chalmers as Scotland switch sides

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN WHANGAREI NEW ZEALAND

SCOTLAND have named the 15 players who sat out the opening match against Wanganui in the side to play Northland in Whangarei tomorrow on the second leg of their rugby union tour of New Zealand. It means that Gary Armstrong and Craig Chalmers will play together at half back for the first time since 1993, when Scotland lost to England at Twickenham.

The squad arrived in Whangarei, two hours to the north of Auckland by road, heartened by their performance in the victory on Tuesday, but aware that Northland, coached by Sid Goings, the former All Black, will be a tougher proposition. The Scotland XV, though, is also more experienced than that which played Wanganui and includes 11 players who should play in the first international, in Dunedin on June 15.

Northland narrowly missed promotion to the first division of the national league, last season and Goings's experience as deputy coach at the Waikato Chiefs during the recent Super 12 series, played under new scrum and lineout laws, will be invaluable.

Jim Telfer, the Scotland manager, said: "Northland will be harder and Sid Goings is a tricky customer. I remember playing against them when there were four of them [Goings] in the side. They are a strong team and will certainly be keen to come at us."

Northland are led by Glen Taylor, the blindside flanker, who confronts Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, playing his first competitive match for five weeks after injury. Taylor and Norm Berryman, the right wing, are both All Black possibilities but miss the New Zealand trial on Saturday to face Scotland. The Goings dynasty is extended with the inclusion of Milton, the coach's son, at centre.

SCOTLAND XV: R. Stewart (Malcolm), A. Sanger (Fife), G. Hastings (Dumfries), R. Ewan (London), K. Logan (Glasgow), C. Chalmers (Aberdeen), G. Armstrong (Glasgow), P. Wright (Glasgow), A. Ellis (Glasgow), S. Smith (Wales), I. Smith (Glasgow), S. Campbell (Dumfries), H. School (Dumfries), W. Newcastle, B. Wainwright (Newcastle), C. B. Hume (Glasgow).

Billington's Olympic credentials examined

GEOFF BILLINGTON, the favourite to take the fourth place in the British show-jumping team for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, comes under the scrutiny of the selectors this weekend when he competes at the Enza New Zealand Nations' Cup meeting at Hickstead.

Five countries are contesting the cup tomorrow: Great Britain, the holders, Belgium, France, Germany and Ireland. The £36,000 Grand Prix, in which Billington, on It's Otto, was runner-up last year, takes place on Saturday.

Although not a selection trial, Hickstead is an important part of the build-up for Atlanta. "The Nations' Cup is always the best indication of form," Michael Bullman, the chairman of the selectors, said yesterday. "In a grand prize, it's each rider for himself, but a Nations' Cup tells you how a rider reacts under pressure."

Four to fore

Rowing: A total of 14 Great Britain crews, three qualified Olympic boats and several potential world championship combinations will race in the Lucerne regatta this weekend. After the withdrawal of three Olympic-qualified crews, the last of spearheading the team has largely been the contest for a 2m Peter Greg Searle, Jonny Searle and Rupert Obholster.

White time

Pole: The contest for Cincincento polo club's high-goal Warwickshire Cup reached the final phase on Kerry Egan's grounds, Stedding, Sharncliffe, yesterday. Packer's 10th White team, led by Sharncliffe, All Albion's team of Dulak, 12-7 over on credits.

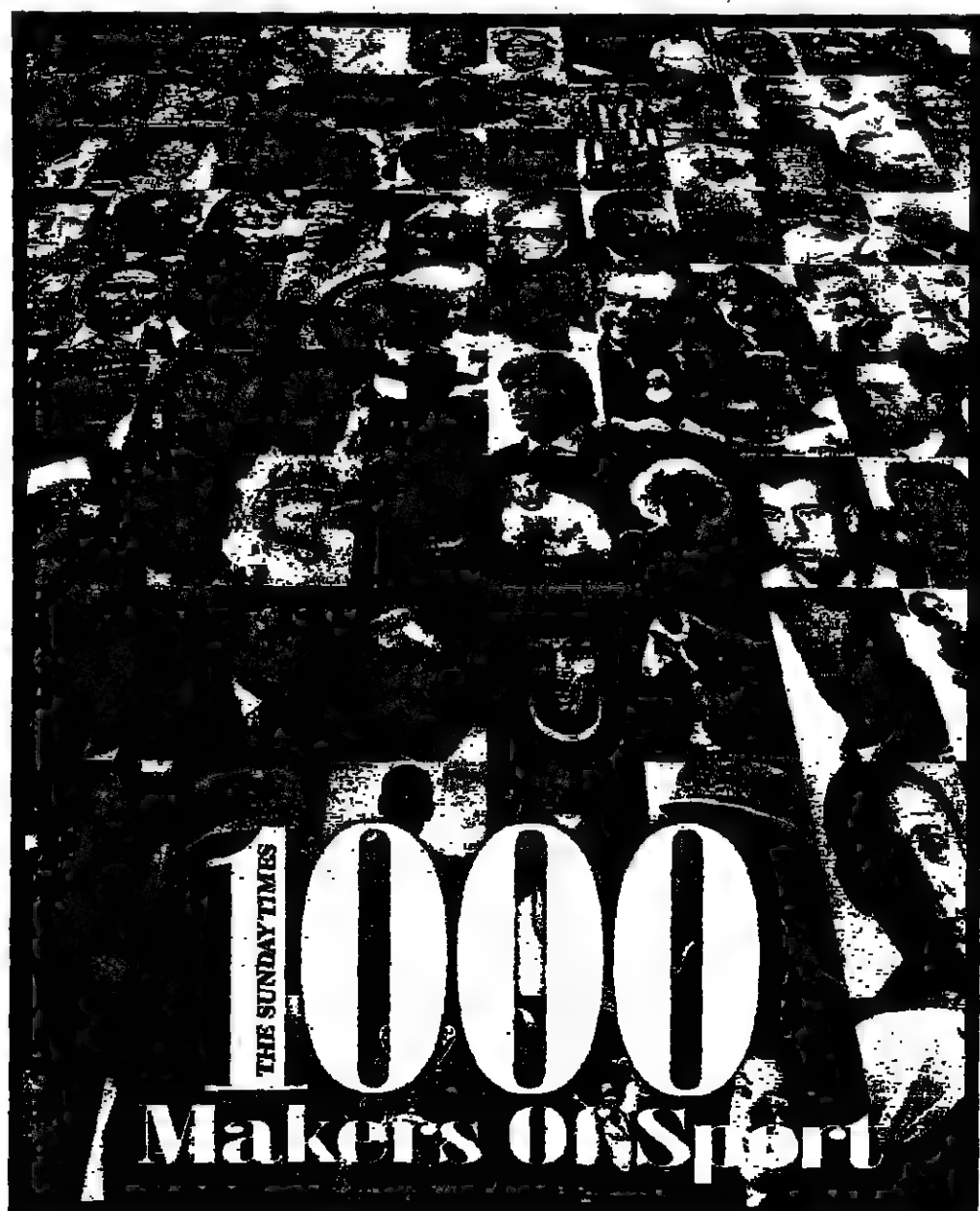
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Cipollini victory

Cycling: Mario Cipollini delighted his home supporters with his third stage win in the eleventh stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday, leading a bunch finish along the coast road in Marino di Massa.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES /S THE SUNDAY PAPERS

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
A correspondent sent me this exciting rubber-bridge deal. It certainly led to a lively post-mortem.

Dealer South	Game All	Rubber bridge
♠K ♥KQJ ♦AKQJ ♣AKQJ	♠KQJ ♥KQJ ♦AKQJ ♣AKQJ	♠KQJ ♥KQJ ♦AKQJ ♣AKQJ

Contract: Seven Diamonds Doubled, by South. Leads: Ace of spades

South ruffed the opening lead and her jack of hearts later went away on the long club. ♠230. This was a huge swing. Quite apart from failing to beat Seven Diamonds, East/West might have made Seven Spades on a diamond lead. There are two ways to try to bring in the heart suit without loser — play for singleton king with North, or singleton jack with South. After the opening preempt, the latter is more likely.

South's Seven Diamonds was open to question — after pre-empting, it is usually not correct to bid again. However, with such a wild distribution, it was a reasonable shot after North could not double Six Spades.

What about West's lead? It was probable that North/South had some sort of club fit, so, if East had a sure trick in that suit, it would not run

away. West also knew that South was highly likely to be void in at least one of the majors. So which major to lead? The only small clue. Hear North's double of Six Hearts was that partner probably had more spades than hearts and, therefore, South was more likely to be void in spades. Finally, East might well have taken insurance in Seven Spades.

□ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on Bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AD CAPTANDUM
a. An ambush
b. A billboard
c. Crowd-pleasing

AD CRUMENAM
a. To the purse
b. A centenary
c. With vinegar

DECATISE
a. To divide by ten
b. To slay cats
c. To steam cloth

GODET
a. To wait for something
b. A small god
c. A triangular piece

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Win for Slough

The team from Slough, packed with five former British champions — Adams, Hennigan, Hodgson, Miles and Speelman — has emerged triumphant in the Four Nations Chess League. The top scores were: Slough 24/26, Midland Monarchs 23, British Chess Magazine and Wood Green 19. A total of 14 teams from around the British Isles joined in the fiercely contested competition.

White: John Emms (Wood Green)
Black: Jon Speelman (Slough)
Four Nations League May 1996

Caro-Kann defence
1 e4 c6
2 d4 d5
3 Nc2 dxc4
4 Nf3 Nc7
5 Ng5 Ng6
6 Bc3 e6
7 Nf3 Bb6
8 Qd2 h6
9 Nc4 Nc4
10 Bc4 Qc7
11 Re1 b6
12 b3 Bb7
13 Bc2 Qd4
14 Qc2 Kc8
15 Bc3 c5
16 dxc5 Nxc5
17 Rad1 e5
18 Bc4 e5
19 Nf4 Nc4
20 Bc3 Nc2
21 Qc2 Bc5
22 Rc2 c6
23 Bc2 Rd1+
24 Bc1 Rd8
25 Bg4 Bc8
26 Bf5 Rf6
27 Bc2 Rf6
28 Bc3 Rf2
29 Bc1 Rf1
31 Qc1 Qc4
32 Qc3 Qc3+
33 Qc3 Bc3+

White resigns



White: Julian Hodgson (Slough)

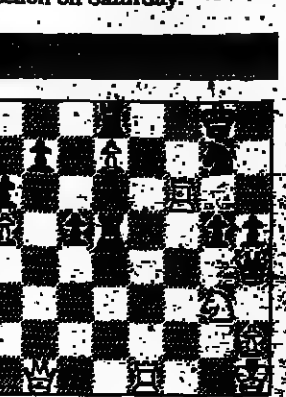
Black: Alan Hammett (Hertford)

Four Nations, May 1996

Trompowsky attack
1 d4 Nf6
2 Bg5 Ne4
3 Bf4 c6
4 Bc3 Nc7
5 e4 e5
6 Bc2 Bc7
7 Nge2 c5
8 c4 Qc6
9 Nf3 Qc5
10 Ng3 c5
11 Nf5 Bb6
12 Bg2 cxd4
13 cxd4 Qd6
14 Qc2 Qd6
15 Qc3 Qd6
16 Qc4 Qd6
17 Qc5 Qd6
18 Qc6 Qd6
19 Qc7 Qd6
20 Qc8 Qd6
21 Qc9 Qd6
22 Qc0 Qd6
23 Qc1 Qd6
24 Qc2 Qd6
25 Qc3 Qd6
26 Qc4 Qd6
27 Qc5 Qd6

In the Seville tournament, there has been a free day. Reports will resume tomorrow.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess: Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



Solution on page 46

Indians feel full force of Law

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD (second day of three): the Indians, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 132 runs ahead of Essex.

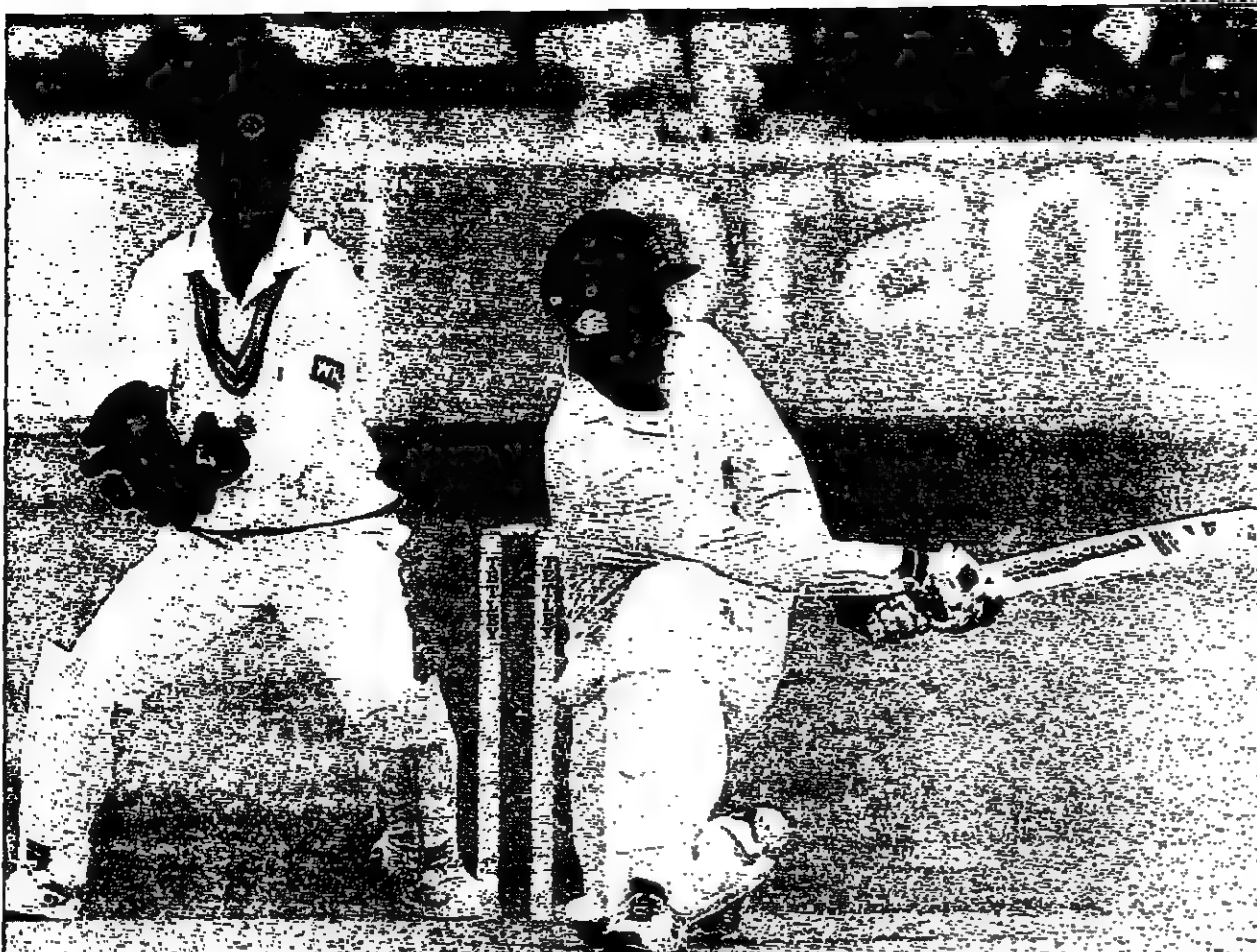
IT IS hard to believe now that, less than a month ago, a hostile group of Essex members gathered in front of the Chelmsford pavilion to advise Stuart Law to return whence he came, or words to that effect.

They have been spoilt over the years by a succession of match-winning overseas players, so, when their new Australian import, entrusted with the last over of a crucial Benson and Hedges Cup game against Kent, conceded nine runs and defeat by one wicket, they were not slow to vent their feelings.

Nobody was complaining yesterday, however. Law did not just save Essex from acute embarrassment at the hands of two young Indian seam bowlers with only a handful of first-class matches between them by completing a century before lunch and going on to make 153, he also confirmed that he is in the great Essex tradition established by Lee Irvine and maintained by Bruce Francis, Keith Boyce, Norbert Phillip, Ken McEwan, Alan Border, Mark Waugh and Salim Malik. Only Hugh Page, the South African who was bedeviled by injuries and no balls in 1987, has let them down.

There was never much danger of Law doing that. He had been recommended by Border, no less, after captaining Young Australia in England last summer and leading Queensland to their first Sheffield Shield during the winter, establishing himself in Australia's one-day side and winning his first Test cap against Sri Lanka along the way.

It has not taken him long to come to terms with English cricket. He had already scored 824 runs in all competitions, including two centuries in the championship, one in the cup



Law sweeps the ball away to complete a stylish hundred for Essex against the Indians at Chelmsford yesterday

and one in the Sunday league, when he went in to bat yesterday with Essex in trouble at three for two.

He was lucky to survive on seven, when Tendulkar dropped him at slip off Mhambre, but, after that, the Indians found it almost impossible to bowl to him.

There were 11 fours, plastered all round the County Ground, in his first 50, which came from only 43 balls, and another ten as he scorched to his century off 84 balls. By the time that he lofted Hirwani to long off, where Prasad took a six and 26 runs, he had made his 153 off 147 balls with a six and 26 runs.

Batting looked easy then, yet it had been anything but that in the morning when

Mhambre, perhaps stung by the decision to send for another seamer, Ankoila, to strengthen the bowling, was making the ball swing and seam all over the place. Mhambre soon had Robinson edging a straightforward catch to Tendulkar at first slip.

Prasad claimed Grayson with the help of a rather more spectacular effort by Jadeja at second slip and Hussain, presented with a chance to make his case for England selection before the first Test, struggled through 12 overs for seven before Mhambre had him

taken at first slip. It was only when the opening bowlers were taken off, never to be seen again for a reason known only to Tendulkar, the acting captain, that the pressure eased and Law was able to indulge himself against the spinners.

Prichard joined him in a four-wicket partnership of 169 and when he was caught at backward point for 53, Irani and Rollins were able to enjoy themselves before Essex declared 51 runs behind. To replace Sidhu, who departed for home yesterday — in the first Test, the opportunity to find some form and he was taking it well with 55, including two sixes and seven fours, when bad light brought an early close.

SCOREBOARD

INDIANS: First innings 320 for 8 dec 10	
1. V. Kohli	115
2. S. Tendulkar	74
3. S. Ganguly	51
4. R. Chelmsford	4
5. S. Prasad	3
6. S. Ankoila	2
7. S. Mhambre	1
8. S. Hussain	1
9. S. Grayson	1
10. S. Jadeja	1
11. S. Prichard	1
12. S. Irani	1
13. S. Rollins	1
14. S. Law	1
15. S. Grayson	1
16. S. Hussain	1
17. S. Prichard	1
18. S. Irani	1
19. S. Rollins	1
20. S. Law	1
21. S. Grayson	1
22. S. Hussain	1
23. S. Prichard	1
24. S. Irani	1
25. S. Rollins	1
26. S. Law	1
27. S. Grayson	1
28. S. Hussain	1
29. S. Prichard	1
30. S. Irani	1
31. S. Rollins	1
32. S. Law	1
33. S. Grayson	1
34. S. Hussain	1
35. S. Prichard	1
36. S. Irani	1
37. S. Rollins	1
38. S. Law	1
39. S. Grayson	1
40. S. Hussain	1
41. S. Prichard	1
42. S. Irani	1
43. S. Rollins	1
44. S. Law	1
45. S. Grayson	1
46. S. Hussain	1
47. S. Prichard	1
48. S. Irani	1
49. S. Rollins	1
50. S. Law	1
51. S. Grayson	1
52. S. Hussain	1
53. S. Prichard	1
54. S. Irani	1
55. S. Rollins	1
56. S. Law	1
57. S. Grayson	1
58. S. Hussain	1
59. S. Prichard	1
60. S. Irani	1
61. S. Rollins	1
62. S. Law	1
63. S. Grayson	1
64. S. Hussain	1
65. S. Prichard	1
66. S. Irani	1
67. S. Rollins	1
68. S. Law	1
69. S. Grayson	1
70. S. Hussain	1
71. S. Prichard	1
72. S. Irani	1
73. S. Rollins	1
74. S. Law	1
75. S. Grayson	1
76. S. Hussain	1
77. S. Prichard	1
78. S. Irani	1
79. S. Rollins	1
80. S. Law	1
81. S. Grayson	1
82. S. Hussain	1
83. S. Prichard	1
84. S. Irani	1
85. S. Rollins	1
86. S. Law	1
87. S. Grayson	1
88. S. Hussain	1
89. S. Prichard	1
90. S. Irani	1
91. S. Rollins	1
92. S. Law	1
93. S. Grayson	1
94. S. Hussain	1
95. S. Prichard	1
96. S. Irani	1
97. S. Rollins	1
98. S. Law	1
99. S. Grayson	1
100. S. Hussain	1

Emburey's four-wicket haul scuppers Kent

By SIMON WILDE

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire beat Kent by 23 runs

THEY had to survive some anxious moments, but Northamptonshire duly won their Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final tie with Kent yesterday. The prize was not firmly in their grasp until John Emburey, their player-coach, came on for a late — and reluctant — bowl and captured four wickets in four overs to snuff out Kent's growing challenge. Northamptonshire, the only unbeaten county in limited-overs cricket this season, will meet Warwickshire, with whom they have recently enjoyed some memorable tussles, in a home semi-final on June 11.

For a team with every reason to play with assurance, Northamptonshire were curiously reluctant to capitalise on their strong position when the game resumed, with Kent on 108 for four and requiring a further 186 runs to more than six an over. When an early wicket might have settled the game, the bowling was uninspired and the fields set deep as Ward and Ealham effortlessly raised their stand from 28 to 77.

By the time Ealham was run out, changing a second run against Emburey's arm at long-off, Kent had got the scent of victory. Walker, a chancer at heart, and Ward

SEMI-FINALS

Lancashire v Yorkshire
Northamptonshire v Warwickshire
Matches to be played on June 11

opened their shoulders with increasing frequency and, not without alarms, 80 runs flowed from the next 12 overs. At 237 for five, Kent had taken on the unlikely guise of favourites.

It was then that Rob Bailey, the Northamptonshire captain, who had ventured only one over of spin up to that point, persuaded his senior off-spinner to bowl the 41st over. Emburey's first ball ended Ward — whom he had dropped off Penberthy, the best of the seam bowlers, five home semi-final on June 11.

SCOREBOARD

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: 293 for 7 (R J Bailey 105 not out D J Capel 65)	
1. R J Bailey	105
2. D J Capel	65
3. J Bailey	40
4. J Bailey	40
5. J Bailey	40
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96. J Bailey	40
97. J Bailey	40
98. J Bailey	40
99. J Bailey	40
100. J Bailey	40

overs earlier — to sweep and had him leg-before for 98. His fifth drew Walker into cutting the ball into the hands of the diving Ambrose at backward point.

With Marsh and McCague together, both of whom have recorded career-best scores this season, Kent were not yet out of the hunt, but McCague promptly swung at Emburey and was caught on the deep mid-wicket boundary.

Marsh gambled to better effect, clubbing Emburey for one huge six over long-on, but, after striking a brisk 23, he, too, holed out on the on-side, where Capel took a fine running catch. Kent's chances were then well and truly gone, the task of scoring 30 runs at faster than one per ball being too much to ask of their tempestuous pair. Ambrose quickly brought the match to an end by having Thompson caught behind.

Emburey, who had a hand in five of the six wickets to fall yesterday, took the gold award, but may not see out Northamptonshire's cup campaign. He will play against Warwickshire, but expects to have phased himself out of the side in favour of younger men by the time the final takes place in July.

Kent departed feeling they had had the worse of the umpiring — and perhaps they did — but, whenever they were presented with a chance to take control, they squandered it.

Fairbrother takes charge

By IVO TENNANT

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire beat Gloucestershire by five wickets

AFTER batting in the twilight on Tuesday with no due concern for the morning, Lancashire had won their Benson and Hedges quarter-final by lunchtime. They did so with-

out being hindered by the weather or Gloucestershire's fast bowlers, who, having initially given their side considerable succour, were unable to make any further wickets yesterday.

Lancashire won with ten overs to spare and, to the delight of their treasurer, play Yorkshire in the semi-final at Old Trafford on June 11. The telling partnership was between Neil Fairbrother and John Crawley, who put on 110 in 22 overs, one chasing his luck against the spin and the other not seeking recourse to anything unorthodox.

That so many wickets fell so cheaply on Tuesday was illusory. This was not a bad pitch. There was no need for Austin to come in at first wicket down, nor, come to that, for Watkinson to open Lancashire's innings. They needed only 159 to win, which called for not much more than a term that, like Rodney Marsh's pie-throwers, will surely not last in the lexicon of the game — but for conventional cricket.

Lancashire, the holders of this trophy, resumed needing 147 runs from 44 overs. When Speak, who had the misfortune to come to the wicket to face Walsh at 7.57pm on Tuesday, took half an hour to get off the mark yesterday, there was no telling where their runs would come from.

Walsh and Smith bowled with considerable guile. Alas, in this competition, they have to give others a go as well. Hancock, who came on at first change, had Speak caught at the wicket, following one that moved away. That was 32 for four in the fifth over, the important stage of the innings in normal circumstances, but not in this low-scoring match. Soon, Fairbrother was improvising in his inimitable way. One drive off Allyn hit the foot of the sightscreen and Davis, the

left-arm spinner, was never given a chance to find his length.

Walsh brought himself back for a second spell, summoning a short leg. Crawley, however, clipped him for four to mid-wicket and then played the shot of the match, using the face of the bat at the last moment and blasting the cover ring. When Fairbrother pulled the same bowler for six, the match was as good as won.

Ball, the other spinner, did take a wicket, bowling Fairbrother, who was yards down the pitch looking to counter

any turn. Crawley, as slim and lithe as he can ever be expected to be, made 48 with five fifties, an innings that, for the technically-correct way in which he countered Walsh, merited the gold award.

It went, however, not to him, or Elworthy, who gained four wickets the previous day, but to Fairbrother, whose unbeaten 80 came off 80 balls and included 11 fours and two sixes. Lancashire might think again about sending in the likes of Austin ahead of him when he is batting with such dexterity.

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THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pos	Team (Player's name)
1	Doh Ash Kington (N Elton)	47	Perth Finckers (A P Stewart)
2	Breakfast Boys (J Goodwin)	48	Slye The Lime CC (K Sutton)
3	JD Ather (J)	49	Lindos Loosers (A Tabor)
4	Cen's Cricket Club (J Gifford)	50	Blaughe Oaks 3 (J Easton)
5	The May Advers (D Talbot)	51	Dray's Cricket Club (J Gifford)
6	Sandwich (D Hester)	52	Law Of Australia (H Paul)
7	Sunderland CC 2 (J Gifford)	53	Aspenwood Twelve (Benton)
8	Lus's Winner (D Williams)	54	Mum's (M Gower)
9	The Burells 3 (W Warren)	55	Frederic Team (P Price)
10	K P Adams 3 (N Paine)	56	Wednesday (A Hubbard)
11	Fair Stoppars (B Jackson)	57	The Run Rats (M Tabor)
12	Ala Ltd	58	How Side XI (J Gifford)
13	Glent Varsity (A Gifford)	59	Joint Venture 1 (S Richardson)
14	Ricardos Marners (R Williams)	60	Fudge's XI (M W)
15	Virtual Reality (J Hester)	61	Wickless Wakes (A Hester)
16	May's Cricket Club (J Gifford)	62	How Side XI (J Gifford)
17	John's First XI (J Gifford)	63	On Jolly Six (M Long)
18	Opportunity 4th XI (P Stewart)	64	P Four Precept
19	Old Catton 2nd XI (A Paine)	65	Suttons Glens (J Gifford)
20	Opportunity 1st XI (P Stewart)	66	The Lynton Ladies (D Talbot)
21	The Wapping Tals (A Talbot)	67	Hunt A £10,000 (E Hurd)
22	The Bodykings (C Taylor)	68	Teunian (A Hurd)
23		69	Merrin's (M Vale)
24		70	Ataturs (P Stewart)
25		71	Johns Boys One (M Jones)
26		72	
27		73	
28		74	
29		75	
30		76	
31		77	
32		78	
33		79	
34		80	
35		81	
36		82	
37		83	
38		84	
39		85	
40		86	
41		87	
42		88	
43		89	
44		90	
45		91	
46		92	
47		93	
48		94	
49		95	
50		96	
51		97	
52		98	
53		99	
54		100	



INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in brackets are the points scored in the last week; the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches completed by May 27. Overseas players are shown in bold type. Rising Stars in italics.

Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	Total
Batsmen (001-135)			
C P Adams (001)	322	0	322
G P Archer (002)	181	0	181
M A Anderson (003)	298	0	298
J W Ather (004)			

Stoute adopts cautious approach as Derby hope faces weekend test

Dr Massini nursed back to fitness

By JULIAN MUSCAT

DR MASSINI, a leading Derby contender, returned to the Newmarket gallops yesterday for his first serious workout since recovering from the leg injury that had threatened his participation at Epsom.

The Sadler's Wells colt worked on the Limestone but he was not asked for his longest stride in the closing stages. Stoute was content to see Dr Massini complete the gallop as he considered how best to prepare the colt for the classic on Saturday week.

A fluent winner of the Glasgow Stakes at York two

RICHARD EVANS

Name: HALEBID
(4.10 Brighton)
Next best: Labadd
(3.10 Brighton)

weeks ago, Dr Massini contracted a bout of lameness which necessitated his withdrawal from fast work. The horse is one of a number of Derby candidates afflicted by an interrupted preparation but Stoute remains hopeful that Dr Massini will do himself justice.

"One never likes a delay in the build-up to a race of this importance," Stoute said yesterday. "The horse galloped today for the first time since York, so it wasn't testing work. It will be a bit stronger next time. His next bit of work over the weekend will tell us whether



The Dante Stakes winner, Glory Of Dancer, right, had a 12-furlong canter yesterday in his preparation for the Derby

we can produce him as we would like for the Derby."

Another horse in the wars is Mark Of Esteem. Godolphin's principal Derby candidate was yesterday prevented from exercising for the second consecutive morning after he succumbed to a high tempera-

ture. Whatever was ailing the colt now appears to have passed, but Godolphin's racing manager, Simon Crisford, acknowledged that the development was unwelcome.

He said yesterday: "I'm not scare-mongering, but every little bobbie so close to a big

race sets the alarm bells ringing," he said yesterday. "The horse was scheduled to have a big workout this morning, so we have put that back until the weekend."

On a busy morning at Newmarket, Henry Cecil put a second significant gallop into

Dushyantor, who disputes Derby favouritism with Dr Massini and Glory Of Dancer with Ladbrokes. Dushyantor, himself detained with an infected foot, had to work hard to stay ahead of Storm Trooper and Clever Cliche at the end of ten furlongs.

Cecil said: "Storm Trooper is in good order and worked well. Dushyantor, as usual, ran lazily when he hit the front but travelled well through the gallop."

No decision on Clever Cliche's Epsom participation has yet been made.

Glory Of Dancer was not asked to gallop hard yesterday. He covered 12 furlongs at a swinging canter and his trainer, Paul Kelleway, said: "The horse is a tough character but the Epsom track concerns me. He would eat them for breakfast on a flat track."

Kelleway has secured Glory Of Dancer's jockey, Oliver Peslier, a ride around 12 furlongs of the switchback circuit 24 hours before the Derby. The Frenchman has yet to set eyes on Epsom.

Magnificent Style's performance in a gallop with Lady Carla yesterday convinced connections that she merits the £15,000 supplementary entry fee to the Oaks tomorrow week. Cecil, who trains Magnificent Style, has approached Mick Kinane for the ride.

A decision on whether the Oaks Affair will also be supplemented has been deferred until today. Connections believe her chance is strong but are reluctant to start her on fast ground.

Also on the Oaks front, Pricklet, the red-hot favourite from the Godolphin camp, completed her serious work when pulling clear of her lead horse, Redoubtable.

Results, page 43

CARLISLE

THUNDERER
2.20 Plan For Profit, 2.50 Cheertful Groom, 3.20 Six Clinks, 3.50 Dimakley, 4.20 Imp Express, 4.50 Campaspe.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.20 SANDSLASTER.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.50 Dimakley.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.50 TUCK SHOP MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

(2.5.0; £2,982; 5f 21yds) (15 runners)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 9 (1) 08 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 10 (1) 09 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 11 (1) 10 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 12 (1) 11 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 13 (1) 12 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 14 (1) 13 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 15 (1) 14 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

2.50 MALT HOUSE WINNERS HANDICAP

(£3,078; 6f 20yds) (15)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 9 (1) 08 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 10 (1) 09 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 11 (1) 10 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 12 (1) 11 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 13 (1) 12 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 14 (1) 13 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 15 (1) 14 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

3.20 ROOKER CASH & CARRY HANDICAP

(3.5.0; £3,102; 7f 21yds) (11)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 9 (1) 08 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 10 (1) 09 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 11 (1) 10 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

3.50 GOLD MARK MAIDEN FILLS STAKES

(£3,485; 7f 21yds) (4)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

4.20 CHEF'S LARDER LIMITED STAKES

(£2,745; 5f) (14)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 9 (1) 08 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 10 (1) 09 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 11 (1) 10 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 12 (1) 11 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 13 (1) 12 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 14 (1) 13 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

4.50 FAMILY CHOICE HANDICAP

(£2,927; 1m 6f 32yds) (9)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 9 (1) 08 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

HEREFORD

THUNDERER
6.30 Political Reform, 7.00 Just One Caneletto, 7.30 Robert's Top, 8.00 Final Price, 8.30 Cracking Frost, 9.00 Sheep Stealer.

GOING: GOOD
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.30 VOWCHURCH NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,458; 2m 3f 11yds) (12 runners)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 9 (1) 08 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 10 (1) 09 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 11 (1) 10 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 12 (1) 11 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.00 EDWARDSIAN SELLING HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,032; 3m 1f 11yds) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.30 EATON BISHOP NOVICES CHASE

(£2,970; 2m) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

8.00 STONE EDITH NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,388; 3m 2f) (13)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 9 (1) 08 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 10 (1) 09 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 11 (1) 10 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 12 (1) 11 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 13 (1) 12 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

8.30 COTSWOLD NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,983; 2m 3f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

9.00 TYBERTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,332; 2m 1f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

9.30 CAPITAL LETTERS AS JUDGE 7-10-0

1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

9.50 THE ROPS 7-2 Sheep Stealer, 4-1 Cameratae Clock, 7-1 Hel Breeze

1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

9.50 THE ROPS 7-2 Sheep Stealer, 4-1 Cameratae Clock, 7-1 Hel Breeze

1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

9.50 THE ROPS 7-2 Sheep Stealer, 4-1 Cameratae Clock, 7-1 Hel Breeze

1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

9.50 THE ROPS 7-2 Sheep Stealer, 4-1 Cameratae Clock, 7-1 Hel Breeze

1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER
8.45 Pony, 7.15 Breyke, 7.45 Gamco Valley, 8.15 Thunders Folly, 8.45 Ninety-Five, 9.15 Gold Dimes.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.45 DON'T BLINK SELLING STAKES

(2.5.0; £2,211; 5f) (6 runners)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.15 SHERATON GRAND CLAIMING STAKES

(£2,624; 1m 4f 31yds) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.45 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.50 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.50 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.50 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.50 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.50 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.50 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.50 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.50 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.50 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
8.15 Castle Handicap, 8.45 Ninety-Five, 9.15 Gold Dimes.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.45 DON'T BLINK SELLING STAKES

(2.5.0; £2,211; 5f) (6 runners)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.15 SHERATON GRAND CLAIMING STAKES

(£2,624; 1m 4f 31yds) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1) 02 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 4 (1) 03 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 5 (1) 04 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 6 (1) 05 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 7 (1) 06 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 8 (1) 07 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10.

7.45 SHERATON GRAND CUP

(Handicap; £4,086; 5f) (8)
1 (4) 06 EAGLE TO PLEASE 2f 5yds 5-10; 2 (1) 01 DUCKLING 2f 5yds 5-10; 3 (1)

Killingly funny, if that's your sort of thing

Ian Patison, creator of *Rab C Nesbitt* and guardian of Glaswegian gallows humour, got his day-paying off the way right at the beginning of *Bad Boys* (BBC1) last night. We began with two thickly-accented thugs discussing Quentin Tarantino as they took their revolvers out of a car boot.

Please, I thought, not another play on the Big Mac scene from *Pulp Fiction* — everybody's done that. And now Patison has done it too. In France, they don't call a Big Mac *le Big Mac*, explained the thug who had been on a special pilgrimage to Dieppe to find out, they call it *un Big Mac*. "You wouldn't go in to Jimmy's fish emporium and ask for the fish supper, would you. Not unless you were *un noupie*," Hrm, as Big Mac variations go, not bad.

The tribute to the American film director, however, was about more than hamburgers. It is Tarantino

who has posited that extreme violence can be funny and it is on that arguable premise that *Bad Boys* stands. To make the debt doubly clear, Patison endowed gangland boss Malky Mulhaddon (Alex Norton) with the sort of haircut that would give even John Travolta nightmares.

The problem is that only some people find *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction* funny. Others find Tarantino's comic celebration of murder and mutilation perfectly ghastly and I am sure that some of them will object to *Bad Boys* for similar reasons. Torture, hammer fights, compulsory amputations: certainly not standard comic fare.

But the worst the series is guilty of is bad, no appalling, timing. Surely, it is too early for anybody — and particularly the BBC — to find the sound of suburban Scottish streets echoing to the sound of gunfire funny. How vociferous is any minority which objects to lines

such as "mindless violence, it's brilliant, it gives you back your self-respect", we will discover in due course. But I suspect that by the time the fust blows over, it will be too late. *Bad Boys* will be a great popular success.

It may trample through the taboos, but Patison's script is beautifully crafted, delivered with considerable style by a well-chosen cast, and is very funny. And by the simple device of placing Glasgow gangland under threat from villainous Londoners, Patison has ensured that *Bad Boys* should have a wider appeal than the linguistically challenging *Rab C Nesbitt*. Most of us should understand at least half the lines.

Should a defence be needed, the BBC will also be able to point out that the violence is implicit and very stylised. In an episode that included a shoot-out and calling the Nishills gang out

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

of retirement for an old-fashioned street fight ("mayhem's different now, it's all high-tech") nobody was killed and scarcely a drop of blood was shed. It is clearly make-believe and we are supposed to be grown-ups... The fact remains, however, that even for black comedy, timing is everything. More taboos tumbled last night in the unlikely venue of Drapers' Hall in the City of London.

Magnus Magnusson said the word "bleep". "Oooh," we all went, making a mental note to make Mastermind (BBC1) an essential part of every Wednesday night. At least that is what the Mastermind producer would have liked us to have thought.

Instead, I sat there thinking that "The Sex Pistols and Punk Rock" hardly counted as a specialist subject, especially if you were young enough/old enough to have lived through it. But, helped by one point from Magnusson's stumble-free question "which band member reportedly conceived the title *New Mind the Bleep?*", Alan Whittaker (an unrepentant, er, chap from Penzance) stormed to victory. Shame; I was rooting for the Gambian-born advice worker who announced his specialist subject as "the life and philosophy of the old master himself, Karl Marx" — author, of course, of *New Mind the Capital*.

The educational process continued on BBC2 in *Secrets of Lost Empires*, where we were taught two important lessons. The first was how prehistoric man (and I dare say prehistoric woman too) might have built Stonehenge. The second was why they should never have invited an American stonemason along to watch.

Now, it is true that some of the methods being tried by Mark Whitty, a British engineer, were perhaps a little elaborate for our stone-tooled forebears. But that still did not excuse Roger Hopkins' behaviour: "Remind me to get you the Boy Scout manual," he sneered, as two huge wooden levers struggled to control a 40-tonne, not-quite-standing stone. Whitty tried again. "I hope you've built a decent A-frame this time," said Hopkins, digging himself in deeper than the heelstone. Whitty persevered and, no

doubt encouraged by the thought of the first human sacrifice under a trilobite (two standing stones plus a trilobite) for 3,000 years, triumphed. Next week, we tell them how to do Mount Rushmore.

Not everything that comes out of America is bad, of course, and one of the best in recent months has been the second series of *ER* (Channel 4). Last night, it came to an end — which at least means that some of us will be able to go out on Wednesday night again.

Carter finally became a doctor. Weaver became something called an attending and Ross and Greene signalled they would be back for the sadly far-off series three with lots of buddy stuff. But in the finest tradition, uncertainty — HIV, professional discontent, mental disintegration — hung over just about everybody else. American stonemasons I can live without, but American drama of this quality — never.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (55092)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (Cesfax) (87383)
9.00am Breakfast News Extra (Cesfax) (705302) 9.20am Can't Cook Won't Cook (Cesfax) (704108)

9.50am FILM: *Awake and Boats* (1958). Jeff Chandler, George Nader and Julie Adams in a Second World War drama. Directed by Joseph Pevney. Includes 11.00 News and weather (93405878)

12.00 News (Cesfax) and weather (93405868)
12.05pm Call My Bluff. With Bob Holness, Sami Torking and Times columnist Alan Coren (s) (552498) 12.35pm Going for Gold (s) (4015818)

1.00 News (Cesfax) and weather (80450) 1.30 Regional News (8225052) 1.40 Neighbours (Cesfax) (s) (88723005) 2.00 The Flying Doctors (s) (Cesfax) (s) (74059)

3.30 Playdays (s) (2042837) 3.50 Greedy-saurus and the Gang (s) (846453) 3.55 Peter Pan and the Pirates (s) (Cesfax) (s) (2054672) 4.15 The Wizard of Oz (Cesfax) (s) (5385189) 4.35 Mud (s) (Cesfax) (s) (2331352) 5.00 Newsworld (Cesfax) (70214) 5.10 The Link and Dee Street (Cesfax) (s) (8832721)

5.35 Neighbours (s) (Cesfax) (s) (827818)
6.00 News (Cesfax) and weather (289)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (951)
7.00 Top of the Pops (Cesfax) (s) (4768)
7.30 EastEnders. Grant plays Ruth a visit (Cesfax) (s) (285)

8.00 Animal Hospital: On the hoof. Rod Harris swaps domestic pets for the more exotic wildlife of Whipsnade Wild Animal Park in Bedfordshire (Cesfax) (s) (55295)

8.30 Airport. (5/6) Documentary series behind the scenes at Heathrow, the world's busiest international airport (Cesfax) (2824)

9.00 News (Cesfax); regional news and weather (5504)
9.30 Absolutely Fabulous. Award-winning comedy with Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley (s) (Cesfax) (s) (55295)

10.00 Making Babies. Anna arrives at the hospital for the scan. Will her second attempt at IVF be successful? Tania begins to bleed again and is rushed into hospital. Rebecca arrives at the clinic after an all-clear from her cancer scan and an unexpected honour is conferred on Professor Robert Winslow. Last in series (Cesfax) (s) (110491) N.L.: 10.00 Spotlight 10.30 Making Babies 11.00 Question Time 12.25 FILM: Play It Again Sam 1.45 Weather

10.50 Question Time. On the panel are the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, William Waldegrave and a legal eagle, Lord Justice of Appeal, Lord Justice of Appeal, Lord Justice of Appeal (Cesfax) (2531127) WALES: 10.50 The State 11.30 Question Time 12.25 FILM: Play It Again Sam 1.55 News and weather

11.55 FILM: *Sam It Again*. Sam (1972) Comedy starring Woody Allen and Diane Keaton. An insecure film critic calls on the spirit of Humphrey Bogart for advice on how to treat women. Directed by Herbert Ross (Cesfax) (15030) 119

1.15am Weather (8865144)

Video Plus+ and the Video PlusCode. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a programme. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Video Plus+ is a trademark of Genetec Development Ltd.

2.00am News (Cesfax) and weather (5504)
2.30am News (Cesfax) and weather (5504)
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12.00am News (Cesfax) and weather (5504)

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Stressed Materials (7555556) 6.25 Relational Concepts (7534363) 6.50 Free Body Diagrams (5667556)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4055924)
7.30am Brum (9214180) 7.40 Blinky Bill (4299005) 8.05 Smurfs' Adventures (7705301) 8.30 Blue Peter (74214) Actv-8 (7071498) 9.45 SuperTed (3067295) 9.55 Spot (251352) 10.00 Playdays (2538035) 10.25 Star Trek (842106) 10.50 The Tick (1998169) 11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (4535853) 12.00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (78030)

12.30pm Working Lunch (18671)
1.00 Brum (s) (40623127)
1.10 The Season: Henley Week (s) (31799127)

1.40 All Washed Out. Why the Yorkshire Dales flooded in 1995 (s) (3064740)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7567278)
3.00 News & Weather (7510082)
3.05 The Natural World. North York Moors National Park (9092301)

3.55 News (Cesfax) and weather (8461588)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (924) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (108) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (4900058) 5.40 The Sky at Night (s) (Cesfax) (s) (172943)

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (801045)
6.45 The O Zone (s) (886740)
7.00 Best of Esther (s) (Cesfax) (s) (5011)
7.30 Out and About (837) N.L.: 7.30 We Are Not Amused (837) WALES: 7.30 Homeland (837)

8.00 Rick Stein's Taste of the Sea (s) (Cesfax) (s) (1059)

8.30 Rick Stein's Taste of the Sea (s) (Cesfax) (s) (1059)

9.00 Rick Stein's Taste of the Sea (s) (Cesfax) (s) (1059)

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CHOICE

One Foot in the Past (BBC2, 8.30pm)

The Channel Tunnel rail link is threatening the Victorian gasometers which dominate the skyline outside Kings' Cross station. But *One Foot in the Past* is back to mount a rescue campaign. Even the locals sing the aesthetic praises of structures usually regarded as a redundant eyesore, while conservationists are positively lyrical about them. After this, you wonder whether the builders of the rail link will dare to go ahead. Also on the unflinchingly enjoyable heritage programme, Jack Charlton takes us to one of many castles in his native Northumberland and tells memories of his mother, who died recently. Finally there is an item on how members of the Royal Family have tried to ensure privacy in their bedrooms, a problem which existed centuries before the arrival of tabloid newspapers.

SAS: The Soldiers' Story (ITV, 9.00pm)

The storming of the Iranian Embassy in London in 1980 provided television with some of its most gripping live coverage. But the freeing of the hostages held by Iraqi terrorists had to be observed from outside. We heard the gunfire and saw the chaos, but only later was the outcome of the SAS mission confirmed. Now, to launch a series about the SAS, we get the inside story in a mixture of news footage and reconstruction, vividly assembled by the director Andrew Fiddington. Some of the original participants take part, preserving the mystique of a semi-secret service, the identities are concealed but the testimonies are revealing. "It was the law of the jungle — kill or be killed," says one black-headed figure, and admiration for the efficiency of the operation may be tempered by the gung-ho relish with which it was conducted.

Witness: When Women Kill (Channel 4, 9.00pm)

A documentary from Canada features three women who killed their violent husbands. Their testimonies, delivered straight to camera with no mediating commentary, are as grimly matter-of-fact as they are shocking. They tell of final, usually spur-of-the-moment, retaliation after enduring years of beating and abuse. The film raises wider questions about the shortcomings of the legal system in dealing with such cases. In particular, the failure to tackle the make-violence which lies at their root. Montages of newspaper cuttings and clips from television news reports underline the extent of the problem, even in supposedly civilized Canada. Insights into why men are violent towards women are given by members of a batterers' therapy group in Ontario.

The Poisoned Chalice: Nemesis (BBC2, 9.30pm)

The final instalment of a pulsating series charts Britain's testy relationship with the European Community and has seen last-minute script changes to include John Major's "beef offensive" and the Government policy of non-cooperation. Sending the tone is a footage of an extraordinary press conference in 1980, at which Mrs Thatcher humiliated the EU President, Jacques Delors. Her aggressive style horrified even members of her own Cabinet, as Lords Howe and Lawson and Douglas Hurd testified. Chancellor Kohl once tried to woo Mrs Thatcher with a caviar lunch at his exclusive restaurant. But the main dish, a stuffed pig's stomach, proved no more palatable to her than the social chapter. Europe helped to topple Mrs Thatcher and has plagued her successor.

Peter Waymark

John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson (Sky Movies, 10.00pm)

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HTV

6.00am GMTV (9717158) 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (Teletext) (s) (7058547)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (2615108)
10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (8905685)
10.35 This Morning (5032478)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (1372450)
12.30 News and Weather (Teletext) (4034943)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (4019634) 1.25 Coronation Street (s) (Teletext) (1335585) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (1923001)

2.25 FILM: Too Good to Be True (1989) Conclusion of yesterday's film about jealousy which ends in murder. Directed by Christian I. Nyby II (573837)

3.20 News (Teletext) (7327382)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7326553)
3.30 The Riddlers (s) (8902603) 4.40 Widdowson (s) (174634) 5.50 Twinkle the Dream Being (s) (459721) 5.55 Rupert (s) (2030092) 6.20 Samson Superslug (Teletext) (s) (5395450) 6.45 Crazy Cottage (Teletext) (s) (222634)

5.10 A Country Practice (8292255)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (178769)
6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (813833)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (874278)
7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (8637)

7.30 3-D. Julia Somerville looks at how the shape of models has changed in the last few years. Where, once a female had to be incredibly thin, now the curvaceous look is more popular, while for men the traditionally attractive model is losing out to the male wall (s) (383)

8.00 The Bill. Datta and Garfield investigate a case of suspected drug dealing (s) (Teletext) (8655)

8.30 Police, Camera, Action! Astarik Staveley presents a package of motorists taking life-threatening risks (s) (Teletext) (s) (7092)

9.00 S.A.S. — the Soldiers' Story. Documentary series (Teletext) (s) (3363)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (73585)
10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (809189)
10.40 On the Line. Live discussion on one of the week's big stories (739856)

11.10 FILM: Curiously Kills (1990) starring Rae Dawn Chong, Courtney Cox and C. Thomas Howell. A struggling artist unveils a murder when he neighbours' supposedly commits suicide. Directed by Colin Bucksey (833178)

12.40 Carnal Knowledge (S135967) 1.40 Not Fade Away (1525783) 2.40 Shift (181290) 3.35 Late & Loud (s) (150219) 4.30 The Time... the Place (s) (s) (47022) 5.00 Garden Calendar (4667)

5.30 Morning News (64888)

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HTV WALES

As HTV

land players must not be seen to have behaved improperly and got away with it. It is a fair response and should be followed when Venables returns from Switzerland on Sunday. He has face to face talks with the alleged miscreants and then identifies them.

An appropriate punishment, however, might be a fine of say £20,000 — £5,000 to cover Cathay Pacific's damage and £15,000 to donate to Alcoholics Anonymous. After that, let the players play.

Selection confirmed, page 3
Two-way race, page 2
Bryant's Eye, page 4

legged, Cowardesque, as if to say this was all too boring. Little Randienteefy keeping her head as the crowd noisily implied Mar-je to *allez*, broke serve twice to level the match. Pierce socked the spare ball petulantly into the top of the stand, but thereafter got hold of her game sufficiently to win 6-3, 2-6, 6-2. She had appeared to pretend on court, however, that this nasty little experience had really happen to someone else.

[illegible]

Bannister said yesterday, "but with Raymond now due to face a disciplinary hearing, I can understand the association wanting to distance itself."

Bannister, whose decision to resign "in the wider interests of the game" was announced in a brief statement by the PCA executive, added that he was "sad that my involvement with the association has come to an end". It is a long and distinguished involvement dating back to the end of his playing career in 1967. Bannister, now 65, served as treasurer, secretary and chairman before succeeding John Arlott as president.

Bannister has long possessed a talent for versatility. Aside from his role with the PCA, he is a writer and television commentator on the game and a commit-

tee member of Glamorgan. There would inevitably come a time when others considered that he was compromising one role with another, but it is ironic that it should happen so soon after he advised David Graveney, general secretary of the PCA, that he would be guilty of a conflict of interests if he pursued his challenge for Ilwington's chair.

It is understood that the PCA's concern extended beyond the Ilwington affair. Barrister has written two other books this winter, with Allan Lamb and Don Oslar. Both are controversial cricketing characters whose stories will be regarded by many in the game as best left untold.

Rule of Law, page 44
Golden Embury, page 44

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 All flights are subject to availability.



Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 794

ACROSS: 1 Practice 5 Rang 9 Oscar 10 Italics 11 Paddock
 12 Binge 13 Splenetic 18 Usage 20 Nomadic 22 Fulsome
 23 Czarul 24 Tank 25 Ignorant
 DOWN: 1 Prompt 2 Accedes 3 Turbo 4 Chicken-and-egg
 6 Alien 7 Gasper 8 Gambit 14 Lie low 15 Cadenza 16 Buffet
 17 Sculpt 19 Alien 21 Macho

هكذا من الأصل

CROSSWORD